



Department
for Transport

Huw Merriman MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Andrew Stephenson MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: andrew.stephenson@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Huw,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Transport Select Committee to inform you that I am today publishing revised Safeguarding Directions for the West Midlands to Leeds section of the High Speed Two (HS2) route (known as the Phase 2b Eastern Leg) to reflect the latest design of the HS2 railway.

As you will be aware, the Government periodically reviews land requirements for the HS2 rail project and updates the extent of safeguarding accordingly. The land that has been added to the safeguarding area is a single site in Toton, close to Nottingham. This land is needed for the construction access for the East Midlands Hub Station. The land requirements for the station itself has already been safeguarded.

Please note that the sequencing and delivery of the Phase 2b Eastern Leg and its integration with Northern Powerhouse Rail will be set out in the Government's Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands that I aim to publish soon. Safeguarding this additional land allows us to keep options open while those final decisions are made and guard against conflicting developments however we choose to proceed.

The landowner has been made aware of the Safeguarding Directions prior to their publication, as has the local planning authorities.

A copy of the High Speed Two Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester West Midlands to Leeds Safeguarding Directions alongside this letter will be placed in the libraries of both houses. The Safeguarding Directions are also publicly accessible online.

Best wishes,

ANDREW STEPHENSON MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT