



Department
for Transport

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Dear John,

East Coast Main Line upgrades

During the Transport debate in the House of Lords on 17 October and a discussion concerning Network North, you enquired as to the status of the East Coast Main Line (ECML) upgrades, and I committed to providing a written response.

I can confirm that the £3.5bn upgrades for the ECML outlined in the Integrated Rail Plan remain unaffected by the Network North announcement. These upgrades will seek to upgrade and improve line speeds and capacity across the route.

The Department has provided Network Rail with early-stage development funding to begin consideration of how these ambitious plans can be delivered as efficiently as possible. In addition, there are already several schemes at a more mature stage of development. This includes a package of enhancements at Darlington Station – for which construction work has now commenced – and upgrades at York Station.

I hope that this response provides the clarity you were seeking. I will copy this letter to all Noble Lords who spoke in this debate and place a copy in the Library of the House.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON