



Department
for Transport

The Lord Watts
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Lord Davies of Gower
Minister for Maritime, International and Security

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: Lord.davies@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

19 December 2023

Dear Lord Watts,

Thank you for your contribution at last week's Urgent Question Repeat on Refurbishing Trains. As you may recall, I was unsure of the exact figure the Government has pledged to invest in new northern rail infrastructure schemes during the debate on rolling stock on 12 December, and I am keen to ensure yourself and all Noble Lords have the correct figure.

The schemes announced on 4 October as part of Network North will transform transport connectivity across the north and midlands and will be delivered far sooner than HS2 north of Birmingham was due to enter into service. We are redirecting £36 billion of HS2 funding to invest in hundreds of transport projects, with every region set to receive the same or more transport investment as previously planned.

£19.8 billion has been earmarked for new transport schemes in the north, of which a significant proportion will be spent on rail. This includes £3 billion to connect the major cities of the north, and £2 billion to build a new station at Bradford and to connect it to Northern Powerhouse Rail by doubling capacity and almost halving journey times to Manchester. We will also upgrade the Energy Coast line and plan to invest in more local schemes to reconnect communities by reopening lines closed during Beeching-era cuts. This is on top of £12 billion being invested to improve rail connections between Liverpool and Manchester.

Thank you for your contribution during this debate. I have copied this letter to all Noble Lords who spoke during the debate and will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER