



Department
for Transport

The Rt Hon. The Lord Wallace of Saltaire
House of Lords
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Lord Davies of Gower
Minister for Maritime, International and Security

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Dear Lord Wallace,

Response to queries at Lords' Oral Questions on 14 February

Thank you for your contribution to Lord Grocott's Oral Question on Network North on 14 February. You asked whether there are any plans to build a new rail line between Manchester and Leeds.

The Government set out its proposed approach for rail on the Manchester to Leeds corridor in the 2021 Integrated Rail Plan. This first involves delivery of the Trans Pennine Route Upgrade of the Huddersfield line, with Northern Powerhouse Rail then building upon this investment by improving capacity and journey times.

Network North adds to these commitments by fully integrating Bradford into the planned upgrades for Northern Powerhouse Rail, achieving a 30-minute journey time to Manchester via Huddersfield and a 12-minute journey time to Leeds.

This negates the need for a full new rail line, which would add significant cost without delivering significant additional benefits.

We are in the early stages of planning next steps, including delivery timelines, for these schemes and are working closely with Network Rail and other delivery partners to deliver on them. Schemes announced by Network North are subject to the development and approval of business cases and will undergo formal governance in line with relevant legal and fiscal duties.

I hope this has helped with your query, and thank you, once again, for contributing to this debate. This letter has been copied to all Noble Lords who spoke in this debate and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davies of Gower". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER