



Department
for Transport

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

The Rt Hon. The Lord Grocott
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

23 February 2024

Dear Lord Grocott,

Response to queries at Lords' Oral Questions on 14 February

Thank you for tabling the Oral Question on Network North on Wednesday 14th February. As promised, I am happy to supply further information on this subject.

I want to first reiterate that Network North is not just focused on rail but many modes of transport that will benefit the country.

Network North announced multiple rail schemes, including various projects such as line upgrades, full funding for the Midlands Rail Hub, and the expansion to the core Northern Powerhouse Rail network bringing in Sheffield, Bradford, and Hull. A full list is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

We are in the early stages of planning next steps, including delivery timelines, for these schemes. As well as this, we are working closely with Network Rail and other delivery partners to develop and deliver on these Government priorities.

All schemes will be subject to the development and approval of business cases and will undergo all formal governance, in line with relevant fiscal and legal duties.

In response to your specific questions:

Calculation of £36 billion

All the Network North funding is based on money that had been previously earmarked – but not yet used – for future spending on HS2 Phase 2a, HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg and HS2 East (alongside the rescope approach at Euston). Network North does not include funding for Phase 1 – which we are

still delivering – or the money that had been spent to date on HS2's cancelled phases.

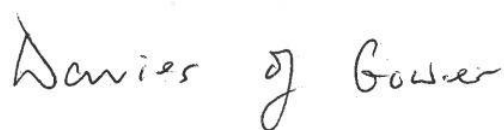
Every penny of the £19.8 billion committed to the Northern leg of HS2 will be reinvested in the North. Every penny of the £9.6 billion committed to the Midlands leg will be reinvested in the Midlands. The £6.5 billion saved through our rescoped approach at Euston will be spread across every other region in the country.

Tavistock Station

This Government will deliver rail improvements in the South-West. We will reopen stations and reintroduce rail passenger services to Wellington and Cullompton, reinstate five miles of track and a new station at Tavistock to connect it with Plymouth.

Thank you, once again, for tabling this debate, and I do hope you find this response helpful. 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 cursive script that reads "Davies of Gower".

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER