



The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport

Councillor Sarah Hayward
Leader of the Council

King's Cross ward
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

27 June 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

HS2 Ltd's community engagement remains inadequate

Despite the Assurances given to Camden last December, I remain concerned that HS2 Ltd seems woefully underprepared to carry out engagement on a scheme that will commence next year, if it gains Royal Assent in December 2016 as you hope. Disappointingly, HS2 Ltd does not appear to be acting quickly on the recommendations of the House of Commons Select Committee; nor those of the Bynoe Report or the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. As a result significant numbers of our residents, including the most vulnerable, continue to be anxious about the impact HS2 construction will have on their lives.

In December we were given an Assurance that HS2 Ltd would engage appropriately with all sections of the community, in recognition that *"communication and engagement are critical elements of delivering the construction works and high quality engagement is essential to the nominated undertaker's relationship with communities and stakeholders."*

The Assurance committed HS2 Ltd to engage with Camden on the development of a community engagement framework which would meet these standards. Six months on we have been provided with one draft of a local framework that does not give any re-assurance that HS2's plans for engagement are sufficient to reach all sections of the community, but in particular the vulnerable and hard to reach.

We have drawn this matter to the attention of the Residents Commissioner and officers recently met with her and HS2 Ltd to discuss their approach. Despite this meeting I continue to share the concerns raised by the Commissioner in her most recent report that some residents, particularly in Camden, will not get satisfactory support from HS2. The Engagement and Equalities teams within HS2 Ltd must work together to devise an effective way to provide the tailored and individual support that these residents will need.

I share residents' understandable frustration at HS2 Ltd's lack of engagement on the other assurances that will affect their lives for the next 17 years. High quality engagement should involve a variety of methods including online, focus groups and public meetings, giving those affected a real opportunity to influence decisions and for their views to lead to changes in the proposals.

I have repeatedly raised my concerns with David Prout and David Higgins when I meet with them and Camden's concerns were sufficient that in April we drew the House of Lords attention to them in our petition. I ask for your support in pushing HS2 Ltd to ensure that HS2

Ltd work quickly to develop comprehensive community engagement that offers genuine scope for change, is responsive to community concerns and clearly sets out how HS2 will engage with the vulnerable and hard to reach in our communities. Camden has waited too long for community engagement and I sincerely hope that these issues can be resolved before our appearance before the House of Lords Select Committee.

I and the local MP at Euston, Keir Starmer, would welcome a meeting with you at the earliest possible moment to discuss this and other issues relating to HS2 and the assurances received through the parliamentary process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hayward', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Councillor Sarah Hayward
Leader of the Council
London Borough of Camden

Cc: Keir Starmer MP