

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

(By email)

15 July 2016



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

Dear Secretary of State,

High Speed 2

Of the many important transport and infrastructure decisions now before you, I write to draw your particular attention to the Government's current plans for High Speed 2.

With the legislation bringing forward the scheme nearing the end of its parliamentary passage, this is a vital time to bring certainty to the many communities, individuals and businesses who will be affected along the route and who are already suffering substantial anxiety from the destructive impacts of the scheme.

Camden Council opposes the Government's current plans for High Speed 2 which will bring decades of destruction and blight to our borough, and the highest level of disruption of all areas along the route, as recognised by the House of Commons Select Committee on the Bill in its final report in February. If alongside the new Prime Minister and Cabinet, you are to press ahead with the scheme, the Council will continue to stress our long-held position that we must secure the best deal for Camden.

We engaged positively with your predecessor and hope to continue this relationship with yourself, but there remain several fundamental areas of concern which must be resolved, if HS2 is to continue.

Unfair compensation, HS2 Ltd's poor community engagement and the need for a full redevelopment of the Euston mainline station, integrating proposals for HS2, Crossrail 2 and over-station development, are fundamental to mitigating the worst impacts of the proposals for HS2. Meaningful progress and Camden's on going involvement in the studies which HS2 Ltd has committed to undertake is also required, for example the study to reduce the number of dangerous and polluting HGVs on Camden's roads and to transport materials by rail.

I would welcome an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss these concerns and seek a way forward. For understandable reasons I have not yet received a reply to my letter (attached for reference) sent to your predecessor on 27 June on the ongoing inadequacy of HS2 Ltd's community engagement, but would appreciate a swift response now you are office. This vital issue remains unresolved by HS2 Ltd and your Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hayward", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Councillor Sarah Hayward
Leader of the Council
London Borough of Camden