

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport



(By email)
12 August 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,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 July in response to my correspondence about HS2.

Despite all that you say in your letter, it remains a fact that the timetables for the HS2, Crossrail 2 and classic Euston Station redevelopment projects remain unaligned, strongly suggesting Euston Station still won't be redeveloped in a coherent and integrated way. This disjointed approach risks botching an opportunity to create much needed jobs, homes and economic growth as set out in the Euston Area Plan and the Growth Strategy for Euston.

The need for a comprehensive plan becomes crystal clear to anyone who visits the site. While I understand DfT officials are open to the idea of a meeting to help flesh-out your understanding of the issues, I would urge you and Andrew Jones MP to come on a tour of Euston to see for yourselves the impact this project will have on Camden and the potential benefits of comprehensive redevelopment. Others who have visited the site (including HS2 Bill Select Committee members and the Mayor of London) have said their visit provided a level of insight impossible to gain from any briefing note. Given your responsibility for strategic oversight of the whole development, including the interactions with Network Rail and Crossrail 2, I am sure you would find that extra level of insight invaluable.

Your letter refers to the Assurances provided to the Council by HS2 Ltd. The existence of these Assurances must not be used as an excuse to avoid engagement with the representations of individual Camden petitioners. As the Council and residents approach their appearances before the House of Lords HS2 Select Committee in September, it is important that the representations of all Camden petitioners are listened to, and responded to, on their own merits. The Council shares the primary concerns of our residents, but it has quite properly taken a strategic approach to petitioning and it is not for the Council to bring to the attention of the Committee the concerns of individual residents.

With regards to the Community Engagement Framework, in your letter of 25 July you indicate that this has been "largely agreed with...officers". This is not the case. The Council has made it clear to HS2 Ltd that the final document must go further to demonstrate a commitment to deliver genuine two-way engagement with our residents, and set out how engagement with our vulnerable residents will be delivered. Cultural change at HS2 Ltd is still required to ensure that the HS2 project is open, transparent and responsive to feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to Camden soon for a tour of Euston.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Hayward", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Sarah Hayward
Leader of the Council
London Borough of Camden