



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
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Chris Grayling

Thank you for letter of 12 August regarding Camden Council's position on High Speed 2 (HS2).

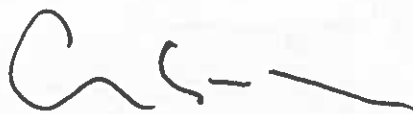
I share your belief in the need to ensure a coherent and integrated approach is taken when delivering the infrastructure proposals in and around Euston Station. Because the long-term development programme for the Euston area has constituent parts at different stages of maturity, it is inevitable that we will need to take an incremental approach toward their delivery. However, it is equally vital that each of the constituent elements are delivered alongside a concise 'masterplan' to ensure a joined-up approach.

I am confident that the masterplan work we have committed to provide funding for, and which is now getting underway, will ensure that the HS2 Euston station will be delivered in a manner that is consistent with any proposals for the future development of the conventional Euston station, Crossrail 2 and London Underground station improvements. This masterplan work will also need to ensure we maintain flexibility for future developments, we do not compromise the growth potential that can be realised around Euston and that we deal effectively with disruption to passengers during delivery. This will need close work with and input from the Council, the GLA, my Department, HS2 Ltd, Network Rail and Transport for London. I would like to reassure you that I will be taking a keen interest in this as it progresses.

With respect to the assurances that have been given to the Council, I can confirm that we do not consider the giving of these assurances in any way diminishing the need to continue to engage with local residents at Euston in an ongoing effort to address their outstanding concerns. As you will know, officials from HS2 Ltd, including the Chief Executive Simon Kirby, have regular meetings with residents and their representative groups and have met them on several occasions over the last few months. These meetings have included discussions to explore what further assurances we may be able to offer local residents.

I agree that engagement with residents in Camden needs to be effective and proactive from both sides. I understand that officials in HS2 Ltd are continuing to work on finalising the Community Engagement Framework following meetings with Euston residents where they provided their comments on the draft Framework.

W. H. Best



Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT