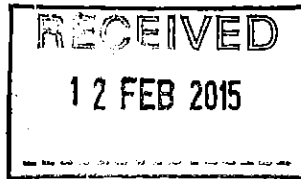




Department
for Transport



From the Parliamentary
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11 FEB 2015

Dear Colleagues

I am writing regarding your letter of 13 November 2014, about the Community and Business Fund. This letter was drawn to my attention by Cheryl Gillan MP, in a letter dated 17 November. Unfortunately I have not formally received this letter from yourselves, however I thought it important that I set out my thoughts for you.

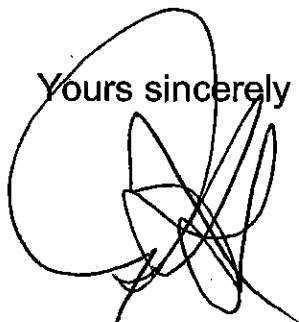
Your letter raises concerns about the £30 million value of the fund. This level of funding was identified as appropriate following consideration of comparators, which offered support to communities and businesses impacted by previous schemes. It was considered that the sum of £30 million would provide supplementary support to communities and businesses, in addition to the comprehensive mitigation measures outlined in the Bill and the Environmental Statement (ES). When developing the fund we were also mindful of the need for a robust approach to managing the costs of the HS2 Phase 1 project, as such it would therefore not be possible to introduce a fund of the value that you indicated in your letter.

I was pleased to learn that the engagement workshops, facilitated by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC), which took place in December 2014 with Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations were productive. These events were well attended, forty-four delegates took part in total and the views were generally positive, stakeholders were grateful that engagement was taking place at this early stage of development. Stakeholders were invited to send their written comments on the presentation shown on the day, to NPC by 5 January. All Stakeholders were informed in writing that comments would be received

purely to inform NPC's recommendations, this was not a consultation event and there would be no formal responses from HS2 Ltd.

This essential stakeholder engagement will help shape key elements of the fund, and I would like to thank those who attended and made written representations for their invaluable contributions. My officials are working with colleagues from HS2 Ltd to finalise details of the fund and these will be announced in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

ROBERT GOODWILL