



10 DOWNING STREET
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20 March 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sir John

I am writing to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 24 January. I welcome your continued support for HS2, and recognise the extent to which the benefits of the scheme are already being felt.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Government remains committed to delivering the whole of HS2 Phase 2 and will continue to work closely with you to ensure that the project meets your aspirations for growth and regeneration.

You will no doubt be aware that 2019 will be another busy year for HS2. Phase 2a is currently before a Select Committee in the House of Commons and we expect to achieve Royal Assent at the end of 2019, subject to the Parliamentary calendar.

We also expect to consult on a number of potential Phase 2b changes later this year to seek views on possible adjustments to the route itself. The Government recognises the benefits of a fully integrated rail network and, for this reason, it is essential that any changes support Northern Powerhouse Rail and Midlands Connect.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the hard work that is being put into the growth strategies across the Midlands and the North, with HS2 being a catalyst for job creation and increased opportunities. Your work is important to ensuring the nationwide support for the scheme and allowing people to fully understand the benefits HS2 will bring.

Yours sincerely
D. J.

Sir John Peace