

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE
Minister of State for Rail
Department for Transport
via email to lord.hendy_mos@dft.gov.uk

My Ref: IC118 /ES

Date: 8 July 2025

Dear Lord Hendy

HS2 – Impact on Staffordshire and Call for Urgent Clarity and Action

I am writing on behalf of Staffordshire County Council to express our deep concern and growing frustration at the prolonged and damaging legacy of the HS2 scheme within our county. Staffordshire has endured years of disruption, uncertainty, and blight as a direct result of HS2; yet to date we have seen no tangible benefits from the scheme whatsoever.

Ongoing uncertainty following the cancellation of Phase 2a in October 2023 has only compounded these issues. Although the announcement marked the end of that leg of the project, the enabling legislation remains in force, and the land acquired under Compulsory Purchase Orders has not been released or returned. This is creating unacceptable uncertainty for our residents and communities, as well as stifling investment and development potential along the affected corridor.

The impact extends beyond HS2 itself. The Council opposes HS2, but committed to working towards maximum mitigation and benefit from the scheme for Staffordshire. To that end, we successfully petitioned for HS2 Ltd to complete the widening and improvement of Wood End Lane. This supported our aspiration to reclassify Wood End Lane to A-road status and declassify the nearby A513. These changes aimed to address issues with traffic flow and safety which the Council could otherwise not have funded. The cancellation of Phase 2a has rendered this work abortive, wasting public funds and undermining local strategic transport planning: disbenefits resulting from our efforts to mitigate a scheme we didn't support to begin with.

I am also deeply concerned about the current pause of Phase One works within Staffordshire. This pause leaves yet more communities in limbo, facing ongoing disruption, visual and environmental degradation, and unanswered questions about their future. I therefore call on the Government to make a clear and final decision on

the future of both the Phase One and cancelled Phase 2a works in Staffordshire. Specifically, I ask that:

1. A definitive statement is made regarding timescales for the completion of Phase One.
2. All outstanding works and environmental impacts are completed or rectified promptly, with land restored and visual blight addressed.
3. A definitive statement is made regarding the cancelled status of Phase 2a in Staffordshire and proceedings started for the repeal of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Act 2021.
4. Land associated with the cancelled Phase 2a is released and returned to its former owners or made available for alternative beneficial use.
5. Staffordshire is fairly compensated for abortive work and unmitigated impacts arising from the both phases of the scheme, by way of a full upgrade of Wood End Line in line with the Council's existing parliamentary undertaking.

To date, Staffordshire has received only disruption, harm, and uncertainty from HS2, and this is not acceptable. We urge the Department for Transport to demonstrate its duty of care to our communities and to work with us in delivering clarity, mitigation and redress for the damage caused.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you directly and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Ian Cooper
Leader of the County Council