

18 July 2017

## **HS2 Phase 2a: West Midlands to Crewe 2016 consultations**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to thank you for contributing to last year's consultations relating to the West Midlands to Crewe section of the High Speed Two route, known as Phase 2a.

Between 13 September and 7 November 2016 we sought views on:

- three proposed design refinements in the HS2 Phase 2a: West Midlands to Crewe Design Refinement consultation;
- HS2 Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) Working Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report; and
- HS2 Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) report.

This letter provides the outcomes of each of these consultations and explains the next steps.

### **Design refinements**

The Government sought views on three proposed design refinements for the 2a route.

These were:

- south of Crewe, extending the Crewe tunnel south and re-siting the tunnel portal south of the A500 and Weston Lane;
- south of Crewe, moving the spur lines that connect HS2 to the West Coast Main Line further south and extending their length; and
- near Stone, building a temporary construction facility (railhead) between the proposed HS2 route and the M6, with the potential that its use could then be changed to become a permanent maintenance facility. This replaces the proposed Crewe depot and means the proposed maintenance loops at Pipe Ridware are no longer needed.

An independent report on the issues raised in response to this consultation is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-design-refinement-consultation>.

Following detailed consideration of all comments and responses submitted to this consultation, the Secretary of State has now agreed the three route refinements detailed above and confirmed that the facility near Stone should become a permanent maintenance facility. Full details can be found in the Government's response to the consultation, which can be viewed via the link above.

### **Working draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report**

HS2 Ltd sought views on the Phase 2a working draft EIA report, which presented draft environmental information based on the stage of design and assessment of the proposed Phase 2a scheme at that time.

An independent summary report of responses to this consultation has been produced by Dialogue by Design and provides an account of the issues and themes raised. This report has now been published and can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-working-draft-environmental-impact-assessment-eia-report-consultation>.

The information provided in response to this consultation has been considered as part of the Phase 2a Environmental Statement, which was submitted to Parliament alongside the Phase 2a hybrid Bill on 17 July 2017. If enacted, the hybrid Bill will provide the powers to construct, operate and maintain Phase 2a of HS2. A report explaining how the responses have been considered through the development of the Proposed Scheme and the EIA can be viewed via the link above.

### **Working draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) report**

At the same time, HS2 Ltd sought views on the Phase 2a working draft EQIA report. That report presented draft equality information based on the stage of design of the proposed Phase 2a scheme at that time.

Views expressed in responses to this consultation have been summarised in a separate independent report, which can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-working-draft-equality-impact-assessment-eqia-report-consultation>.

Responses to this consultation have been considered to inform the EQIA report, which was published alongside the Phase 2a hybrid Bill deposited in Parliament. A report explaining how these responses have been considered through the development of the Proposed Scheme and the EQIA can be viewed at the link above.

### **Next steps**

Following the deposit of the Phase 2a hybrid Bill in Parliament on the 17 July, a formal public consultation on the Environmental Statement has begun. There will be a further opportunity to influence the design of the railway during the legislative process.

The Environmental Statement for the Phase 2a route can be viewed online at [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2), alongside details of how to respond to this consultation.

This consultation will close at 23:45 on **30 September 2017**.

At the same time, HS2 Ltd is consulting on the EQIA report for the Phase 2a route. Information about this consultation can be found on the consultations section of [www.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.gov.uk/hs2).

This consultation will also close at 23:45 on **30 September 2017**.

## Can we help?

If you have any further questions about these consultations, please contact our Helpdesk:

- by phone, on **08081 434 434**;
- by email, at [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk); or
- our minicom service on **08081 456 472**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Munro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alison Munro**

Managing Director Phase Two  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited