

Ms Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

04 December 2020

Dear Ms Hillier,

HS2 Ltd and Non-Disclosure Agreements

I write further to the letter you received in November 2020 from DfT Permanent Secretary Bernadette Kelly with respect to Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) in place on the HS2 project.

Following the Committee's hearing I wrote to Ms Kelly in response to the questions raised around the number and use of NDAs. In that letter I set out that these agreements do not diminish our commitment to being transparent about the programme. We are very aware of the commitment the Government have made to Parliament regarding HS2 and we take that responsibility seriously.

NDAs are only entered into by mutual consent and are primarily for the following purposes:

- to avoid releasing information that could place homes and businesses in unnecessary blight;
- to protect commercially sensitive information;
- to protect the personal information of those potentially affected by any proposed changes to the HS2 scheme;
- to allow appropriate parties, such as Local Authorities, to provide feedback on the design and operation of the new railway, with consideration of local development aspirations and any statutory planning consents.

It is also important to explain that no staff, currently or previously directly employed by HS2 Ltd, have signed NDA agreements with HS2 Ltd. However, confidentiality obligations form a standard part of HS2 Ltd employment contracts, consistent with other publicly funded organisations. These obligations do not prevent employees, current or former, from raising wider questions about the scope, cost, or implication of the project.

A list of those companies and individuals that HS2 Ltd had an NDA with has been in the public domain since July this year, in response to an earlier Freedom of Information request we received. In the enclosed list, the name of any individual that signed a NDA in their personal capacity has been redacted and where an individual has signed on behalf of an organisation their name has also been removed, leaving the organisation's name. For the Committee's benefit we have also removed duplicate entries i.e. where we have signed several NDAs with a single company or individual.

The number of active NDAs changes on a frequent basis as the project develops and new agreements are added to the register or existing agreements are replaced or expire.

I hope the above reassures the Committee about the specific and measured use of NDAs on the project and our commitment to transparency with Parliament. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you, along with any other matter related to the delivery of HS2.

Finally, I look forward to confirming arrangements for the Committee's recently postponed visit to HS2's South Portal site at West Hyde. This site, the launch point for the two Chiltern Tunnel Boring Machines, is the largest of our construction sites on Phase One and will help demonstrate both the scale of the project and our progress since Notice to Proceed was granted in April this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Thurston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Thurston

Chief Executive Officer
High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd

ABB Limited
Affinity Water Limited
Airwave Solutions Limited
Andrew Paul Furniture Ltd
APM Group Limited
Appleby Park Hotel
AQL (LEEDS) LTD
Arden Cross Limited
Arla Foods Limited
Armac Demolition Limited
Arqiva Limited
Arriva Rail North Limited
Artscape Management Limited
Ashfield District Council
Aspen Infrastructure Limited
Atkins Limited
ATOC Limited
Automated Intelligence
B2B Partnering Performance Management Ltd
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough council
Bell Ingram LLP
Berkswell Trust of Leys
Birmingham Airport Limited
Birmingham Big Art Foundation
Birmingham City University
Birmingham Proof House
BMW Hams Hall Motoren GMBH
Bolsover District Council
Bolsover Land Limited
Breedon Southern Limited
British Geological Survey
British Pipeline Agency Limited (BPA)

Broxtowe Borough Council
BSI Group Plc
BT Group PLC
BTO Services Limited
Canal & River Trust
Carbon Trust Certification Limited
Castleton Consulting Limited
CEB Global Limited
CEMEX UK Operations Limited
Centara Ltd
Centurylink Communications UK Limited
Cheshire Agricultural Society
Cheshire East Borough Council
Cheshire West & Chester Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Chesterfield Canal Trust Limited
City of York Council
Cityfibre Holdings Limited
CLH Pipeline System Ltd
Coal Authority
Colt Technology Services
Compass Minerals UK Limited
Construction Industry Training Board
Construction Products Association
Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited
Council of the City of Wakefield
Dalcour Maclaren Limited
DB Cargo UK Ltd
Deloitte MCS Limited
Derbyshire County Council
Doncaster Borough Council
E.S. Pipelines limited
Eaglebeam Limited
EDF Energy (Gas Storage Hole House) Limited
Edge Farming Company
EE Limited
Electricity Network Company Limited
Electricity North West Limited

Energetics Electricity Limited
Energetics Gas Limited
Enterprise AMS Group Limited
EOS Risk Group Limited
Equitix limited
Erewash Borough Council
Essair Oil (UK) Limited
Etool Global UK Ltd
Eunetworks Fiber UK Limited
Extra MSA Property LLP
FC Laser Limited
First Touch Telecommunications Limited
Freightliner group Limited
Fulcrum Utility Services Limited
Gamma TelecomLtd
GE Energy Power Conversion UK Limited
Genesys Telecommunications Limited
Genting Solihull Limited
Greater Birmingham And Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Groundwise Searches Limited
GTC Pipelines Ltd
Hallam Land Management Limited
Hampshire County Council
Hansteen Holdings Plc
Hansteen Saltley Nominee No.1 Limited
Hansteen Saltley Nominee No.2 Limited
Hansteen Saltley Trustee I Limited,
Hansteen Saltley Trustee II Limited
Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
Health and Safety Executive
Highways England Company Limited
Historic England
Hodgetts Industrial Developments (Tamworth) Ltd
HS1 Limited
HW Taroni (Metals) Limited
Hydro Extrusion UK Ltd
Infrastructure and Projects Authority
Inovyn Enterprises Limited

Instalcom Limited
International Automotive Components Group Limited
Interoute Communications Limited
Intervet UK Production Limited (trading as MSD Animal Health)
Iotic Labs Ltd
J.C.B. Research
Jacobs UK Limited
Jaguar Land Rover Limited
Jasmine Trustees Limited
JSM Construction Ltd
Juniper Pharma Services Limited
Keepmoat Homes Limited
Latitude Geographics Group Ltd
Leeds City Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lend Lease Construction (EMEA) Ltd
Lichfield District Council
Lion Television Limited
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham Council
Lowgates Motors Ltd
LS Transmission Consultancy Limited
Lutea Trustees limited
Mace Ltd
Mainline Pipeline Limited
Manchester Airport Group
Manchester City Council
Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd
McLaren Applied Technologies Limited
Microsoft
Midland Expressway Limited

Millennium Point Property Limited
Moran Logistics Limited
Mott MacDonalds Limited
MWH UK Ltd
The National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure (NCATI)
Nationals Skills Academy (NSAR)
NCC Operations Limited
Network Rail (High Speed) Limited
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
North Cheshire Developments Limited
North East Derbyshire District Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Northern Gas Networks Limited
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Old Oak and Park Royal Development
Ove Arup & Partners
Oxenmoor
PA Consulting Services Limited
Packington Estate
Penspen Group Limited
Meadowbrooks 2
Plastic Omnium Automotive Limited
Post Office Limited
Premtech Limited
Progress Rail Services UK Limited
PSG Services Limited
Rhodia Limited

Roadworks Information Limited
Robovoid Pty Limited
Rostons Limited
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Rothwell FC Limited
Royal London Asset Management signed by RLURKEF Nominee (UK) One Limited
RLURKEF Nominees (UK) Two Limited
Royal Mail Group Limited
Rugeley Power Limited
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Sabic UK Petrochemicals Limited
Safe Software Inc.
Savills
Severn Trent Water Limited
Shropshire Council
Siemens Public Limited Company
Silverstone Circuits Limited
Simon Fry Ltd
SKY UK Limited
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Sourcecode UK Limited
South Staffordshire Water Plc
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe)
SP Manweb PLC
SSE Telecommunications Limited
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire County Council
Steer Davies and Gleave Limited
Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Tamworth Borough Council
TATA Chemicals Europe Limited
Tatton Estate Management Limited
Taylor Business Park Limited
Taylor Wimpey UK Limited
Tecquipment Limited

Telent Technology Services
Thames Water Utilities Limited
The Aire Valley Land LLP
The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield Combined Authority
The Greater London Authority of City Hall
The Island Project
The Measham Land Company Ltd
The National Exhibition Centre Limited ("NEC")
The National Trust
The University of Birmingham
TNT UK Limited
Trafford Borough Council
Transport for Greater Manchester
Transport for London (TfL)
Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement
UCL Business Plc
UK-Central (Solihull) trading as UGC
Uniper UK Limited
United Utilities Water Limited
University of Leeds
Useful Simple Projects Ltd
Vastint UK Services Limited
Verizon UK Limited
Virgin Media
Vodafone Limited
Volvo Group UK Limited
Vossloh Fastening Systems GmbH
Warrington Borough Council
Warwickshire County Council
Webro Cable and connectors Limited
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Riding County Football Association Limited
Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) Plc
Western Power Distribution (West Midlands) Plc

Whole Life Consultants Limited
Wigan Council
Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country Limited
Windfall Films Limited
Windmill Nurseries
Windoff Bahn- Und Anlagentechnik GMBH
Withington Golf Club Limited
WSP UK Limited
Yorkcourt (2008) Limited
Yorkshire Water Services Limited