



Department for Transport

Iain Stewart MP
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From the Secretary of State
Rt. Hon Mark Harper MP

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23 May 2023

Dear Iain,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Transport Select Committee to inform you that I am today publishing revised Safeguarding Directions for the West Midlands to Leeds section of the High Speed Two (HS2) route (known as the Phase 2b Eastern Leg) to reflect an update on latest designs at the Thorpe Park location of the HS2 railway.

The Government periodically reviews land requirements for the HS2 rail project and updates the extent of safeguarding accordingly.

The land that has been removed from the safeguarding area is a single site in Thorpe Park, close to Leeds. Further engineering development work has now assessed that the construction of HS2 no longer requires the safeguarded land at this site.

As you will be aware, the delivery of HS2 infrastructure in this area is subject to the outcome of the study to assess the optimum way for HS2 trains to serve Leeds.

The landowner will be made aware of the revised Safeguarding Directions prior to their publication, as will Leeds City Council, who are the local planning authority.

The Safeguarding Directions and safeguarding map are available to view at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-safeguarding-for-developers-and-local-authorities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2b-safeguarding-maps-wakefield-leeds-and-north-yorkshire>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding and how these changes affect your constituency, please feel free to contact the MP helpline number on: 020 7944 0200. Alternatively, you are welcome to email MPHotline@hs2.org.uk, or call Wenda Leslie on 07920 781636 or email her at wenda.leslie@hs2.org.uk

A copy of the High Speed Two Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds Safeguarding Directions alongside this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses. The Safeguarding Directions are also publicly accessible online.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

HUW MERRIMAN MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT