



Transport Committee

Sir Jon Thompson
Executive Chair
HS2 Ltd

By email

19 September 2023

Dear Sir Jon,

HS2 road safety audit process

The Transport Committee has at recent oral evidence sessions addressed the question of the road safety audit process for road improvements being delivered by HS2 Ltd when needed to facilitate or mitigate construction of the line ([19 April 2023](#) at Q566, and [18 May 2023](#) at Q220). We have been made aware of concerns about the road safety audit process and whether it is always being carried out in accordance with the requirements of UK technical standards.

On [17 May 2023](#) the Secretary of State for Transport wrote to the Committee setting out the road safety audit process for schemes that HS2 Ltd is delivering. Mark Thurston referred to this in his letter to the Committee of [15 June 2023](#), when he reassured us that “We engage with the relevant highway authority throughout the road safety audit process.”

During our session in May, Mr Thurston invited us to write to him with any specific cases that we wanted to bring to his attention; one such is the proposed realignment of Yarnfield Lane in Staffordshire.

I would be grateful if HS2 Ltd could provide the Committee with full details of the involvement of the local highway authority, Staffordshire County Council, in the road safety audit process for the Yarnfield Lane scheme since it was first proposed under the Phase 2a hybrid bill in 2017. This should include email and letter correspondence, notes of any relevant phone calls or meetings, and any reports on the design of the road, noting how each of these interactions relates to approval at each stage of the road safety audit process. This information would enable the Committee to assure itself that the process is being followed as expected.

I would also be grateful if you could inform the Committee, in respect of the whole HS2 project:

- on how many occasions consent from the relevant highway authority for construction works to start on road schemes has been delayed because the highway authority had concerns about the scheme;
- on how many occasions highways authorities have withheld certification from schemes that HS2 Ltd considered complete, pending further work;
- in how many locations further works have been required by or undertaken by the local authority after HS2 Ltd completed its own work on road schemes.

I would welcome a response by Wednesday 18 October. As is the Committee’s usual practice, we expect to publish your response, with this letter, when received.



Transport Committee

Kind regards,

Iain Stewart MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee

cc Secretary of State for Transport and Minister for Rail and HS2