



Department
for Transport

From the Minister of State
Huw Merriman MP

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Iain Stewart
House of Commons
London
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18 January 2024

Dear Iain,

High Speed Rail Phase 2a Safeguarding Update

Following publication of the Network North Command Paper on 4 October 2023, the Secretary of State has today removed the Safeguarding Directions for HS2 Phase 2a (between the West Midlands and Crewe). However, in order to allow Phase One of High Speed Two to connect to the West Coast Main Line, safeguarding will remain on land close to Handsacre. This connection at Handsacre will allow:

- passengers to travel on HS2 trains through to Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland, joining the West Coast Main Line for the rest of their journeys; and
- a reduction in the journey time between London and Manchester by nearly half an hour (down to 100 minutes), facilitated through an upgrade of Handsacre Junction which will allow more trains to reach key destinations north of Birmingham.

Safeguarding is a planning tool used to protect the land needed for the HS2 scheme from potential conflicting development. The Safeguarding Directions require the Local Planning Authority to consult with HS2 Ltd on planning applications within the safeguarded land.

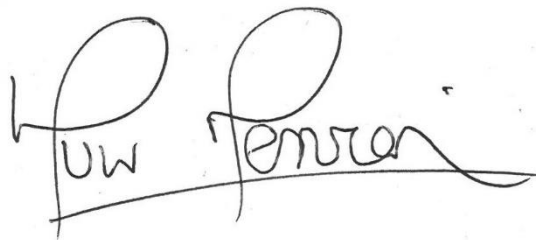
HS2 Ltd is writing to the owners of properties affected, explaining what these changes mean to them. The letters also make clear how HS2 Ltd can help if property owners would like further information.

Newly issued safeguarding maps are available to view at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-safeguarding

If you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding and how these changes affect property owners please feel free to contact Damian Gannon (HS2 Ltd Stakeholder Engagement Manager) on 0734 2074 706 or email Damian.Gannon@hs2.org.uk there is also the MP helpline number on: 020 7944 0200 or email at MPHotline@hs2.org.uk.

Affected property owners can get in touch with HS2 at HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or via the HS2 Helpdesk on Freephone (08081 434 434) which is open for calls at any time. There is also a Freephone mini-com number (08081 456 472) for callers with hearing and speech difficulties.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

HUW MERRIMAN MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT