



Department for Transport

From the Permanent Secretary

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

E-Mail: bernadette.kelly@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

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Meg Hillier MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

[Sent via email]

Dear Chair,

High Speed 2: Progress at Summer 2021 – further information

Following the Public Accounts Committee session on HS2, which took place on Thursday, 24 June, I committed to writing to you with further detail on several points. I have addressed your questions in turn below.

Euston

As indicated at the session, I expect that a further progress update will be provided on Euston in the next six-monthly report to Parliament, regarding progress on the ongoing work to optimise the design and delivery strategy.

I can confirm that the first meeting of the Euston Partnership Board took place on 27 July 2020.

The application date for the planning application for Euston is dependent on the decisions to be taken about the design and delivery strategy. In response to the question asked, I can confirm that the current latest schedule forecasts submission of the schedule 17 planning consent application for HS2 Euston Station is for September 2022.

In relation to connectivity between Euston Station and St Pancras Station, the plans for the HS2 Euston Station include the provision of funding to the London Borough of Camden to develop an enhanced walking route between Euston and St Pancras. This is intended to complement the underground works included as part of the HS2 Station, which will provide convenient step-free access for passengers transiting between Euston and St Pancras via the Circle Line.

HS2 Ltd has been working with the London Borough of Camden, which is in the process of developing a concept design for an enhanced walking route along Phoenix Road. The concept design is being developed in consultation with the local community, with the objective of creating a new green space that benefits communities, the local environment and the local area.

National College of Advanced Transport and Infrastructure (NCATI)

The NCATI has a valuable role to play in training and upskilling the diverse workforce required for HS2 Ltd and its supply chain, as well as the wider advanced infrastructure sector.

The Department for Transport continues to work closely with HS2 Ltd and the Education and Skills Funding Agency to support the merger between the University of Birmingham and NCATI. Officials from the Department for Transport and the Department for Education have met with representatives from the NCATI, as well as principal Ian Fitzpatrick, and have engaged closely with the Department for Education throughout this process.

The Department will continue to support the college in developing its curriculum and increasing numbers of learners. To underline this commitment, HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson visited NCATI and the University of Birmingham earlier this month.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bernadette Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bernadette Kelly CB
Permanent Secretary