

Rt Hon John Healey MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

26 October 2016

Dear Chris

Thank you for meeting with us yesterday. We really appreciated the meeting and the opportunity to outline our concerns about the new proposed HS2 route through South Yorkshire.

We have prepared a personal note for you which confirms the points we made, with the further detail and references to substantiate them.

As we made clear in the meeting, we have serious doubts about the economic benefits of the new route, which were shared by HS2 in their report *Rebalancing Britain: From HS2 towards a national transport strategy* in 2014. As a point of clarification these comments from Sir David Higgins were in relation to the station at Sheffield Midland and not Sheffield Victoria as appeared to be suggested by HS2 in the meeting yesterday. These comments are below for ease of reference:

"The third alternative we examined was a route which included a spur to Sheffield. This option considered a direct route via a spur terminating at Sheffield Midland station. While this provided limited benefits for the city centre market, it did not provide the connections and journey times necessary to serve the wider Sheffield city region effectively, particularly Rotherham and Barnsley. Furthermore, as Sheffield local leaders have also noted, introducing a terminating spur also removes the onward connections north to West Yorkshire and the North East provided by the current Y route.

I do not believe these alternatives could deliver the same improvements in journey time and capacity as Phase Two, nor would they deliver an equitable approach across the North or meet the vision of a truly high speed network for the country."

If you are minded to give the go-ahead to public consultation on the new proposed HS2 route, then we would strongly reiterate our request that you consider making this a comparative consultation on both the new route with the Sheffield Midland spur and the

original Meadowhall to fully investigate the economic and connectivity benefits of both routes.

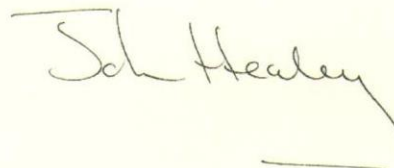
If the route does go ahead, both of us were grateful for your commitment to compensation that will allow people to purchase "like-for-like" properties when their homes are under threat from HS2, as having worked closely with residents affected and community groups we know that it is of major concern.

Finally, we were grateful for the undertaking from HS2 at the meeting that they would proceed to set up a technical working group with appropriate specialists from the Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley local authorities who can help examine route variations to minimise disruption, contribute to the station study and any economic impact assessments.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Miliband". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ed Miliband MP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Healey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

John Healey MP