

Rt Hon John Healey MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
Horseferry Road  
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### HS2 in South Yorkshire

I write following the recent publication of HS2's new proposed route, set out in their 'Sheffield and South Yorkshire Report 2016'.

This came out-of-the-blue and has taken many constituents totally by surprise. I and other local MPs were behind the plans for HS2 with a new station on the route at Meadowhall which could bring big benefits and opportunities to the whole of South Yorkshire, unlike the new proposals. I am dismayed that Meadowhall may now be dropped and opposed to proposals that change this route and mean HS2 runs through South Yorkshire without stopping in South Yorkshire.

I look forward to meeting you with Ed Miliband to discuss a range of local concerns over the new proposed route for the communities of Bramley, Mexborough and the Dearne which will be badly blighted and disrupted by the new plans. However, my purpose in writing at this point is to seek your immediate action to commission HS2 to undertake a study of the feasibility and benefits of a mainline South Yorkshire station, on the HS2 route rather than on a 'loop' of standard rail track in central Sheffield.

I have discussed this directly with Sir David Higgins who is keen that HS2 do this work but clear that you must commission it. He has also been clear publicly about the potential absence of South Yorkshire-wide benefits from the new route, saying in the Report: "I also believe that HS2 should undertake a study to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the potential for a parkway station on the M18/Eastern leg which could serve the South Yorkshire area as a whole" (page 11, Sheffield and South Yorkshire Report 2016).

I therefore urge you to commission HS2 to undertake the study that Sir David Higgins describes without delay, and would welcome confirmation that you will do so.

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