



Department
for Transport

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Our Ref: TO 237942
Your Ref:

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Michael Cowey
Chairman
Woore Parish Council
Mistletoe Bungalow
Candle Lane
Woore
CW3 9RB

Dear Mr Cowey

Thank you for your letter of 13 September to the Prime Minister. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

You have said in your letter that there has been a lack of recognition and communication by HS2 Ltd in relation to your concerns and that Woore was left out of official documentation relating to the High Speed Rail (West Midland - Crewe) Bill 2017 - 2019.

I understand that prior to the deposit of the Bill, HS2 Ltd met with Woore Parish Council and with Shropshire Council. I note that the local elections in May 2017 and the General Election in June 2017 resulted in a delay in discussing proposals further due to election purdah restrictions but that following the General Election, the Environmental Statement (ES) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) were subject to extensive formal public consultation. HS2 Ltd have also provided me with dates of further meetings which have taken place, including one meeting held jointly between Woore Parish Council and Shropshire County Council Officials.

I am sure you understand that road networks in rural areas present a challenge for major construction projects. The Department for Transport recognises that the impact of construction traffic on local roads is likely to be a particular concern for residents who live or work near the line of route of HS2 and is committed to ensuring that the adverse effects of such impacts are reduced, as far as reasonably practicable.

A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken as part of preparing the Bill, including assessing air quality impacts resulting from construction traffic. This is a developing process. The working draft EIA report

was produced early in the development of the Phase 2a proposals. Although the use of the A51/A525 through Woore as a construction traffic route was being pursued, there was not enough information at that time to enable it to be presented in the working draft EIA Report. As the Phase 2a design developed, a detailed traffic and transport assessment was undertaken, which was reported in the Environmental Statement (ES) and was deposited alongside the Bill.

The ES identifies where there are likely significant effects from both the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme and the range of mitigation measures that could be used to reduce or eliminate these effects. The potential impacts of the Proposed Scheme in Woore have been assessed in detail and are set out in Volume 2, CA4 (Whitmore Heath to Madeley) report and the Volume 4, Off Route Effects Report of the ES. Furthermore, detail on traffic impacts and surveys that informed predicted effects in Woore can be found in Volume 5, Traffic and Transport report.

The assessment within the ES considers both the impacts on the residents of Woore and other road users. Along with undertaking traffic surveys to determine the potential impact of the construction traffic on road users, proposed construction routes were assessed to identify potential effects to air quality, noise and vibration from vehicles during the construction period. As set out in Section 5, CA4 Report of the ES, no adverse effects are predicted for air quality during construction. Noise and vibration levels from construction traffic routes have also not been predicted to result in an adverse effect on properties or residents. I trust you will find the assessments in these published documents useful.

Notwithstanding the above, I am informed that site specific air quality monitoring and traffic surveys are currently taking place across the Parish in response to a meeting held in July 2018 between you and HS2 Ltd, and they are also in discussion with you regarding a crossing patrol following your appearance before the Bill's Select Committee in May 2018.

I have been further advised by HS2 Ltd that they will continue to engage with you as Woore Parish Council, as well as with Shropshire County Council as the local highway authority, to address traffic management including calming measures and the safety of pavements outside Woore Primary and Nursery School and along the highways you mention. I am also told this will continue during the construction phase. Again, I trust this provides the reassurance you seek.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Read-Leah
High Speed and Major Rail Projects Group