



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Paul Maynard MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Maynard'.

Thank you for sparing the time to meet me with Cllr Gaynor Irwin this morning to discuss HS2. I thought that we had a helpful discussion and am grateful to you for listening so carefully to what we had to say. I attach a copy of the letter I have sent to Douglas Oakervee as part of my submission to the Oakervee Review into HS2 and I hope that this will be of interest.

Thank you once again for giving up so much of your time.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Paterson'.

**The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP**



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Douglas Oakervee Esq.,  
Independent Chair  
Oakervee Review  
Albany House  
94-98 Petty France  
London SW1H 9EA

10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas Oakervee," written in a cursive style.

Thank you very much for inviting me to the HS2 review yesterday. I gave you some ad hoc comments about the impact of HS2 on my constituents in the village of Woore; I would be grateful if you would accept this as my formal contribution.

### **Woore Village**

1,200 people live in Woore, a village in the north-east corner of North Shropshire at the crossroads of the A51 and A525 where there is already a significant traffic problem. During the HS2 construction phase, the village is facing the prospect of 300 trucks passing by along a road where, in some places, there is no footpath. These movements could go on for six years or more.

### **Mitigation**

HS2's proposals on mitigation set out passing places which would be difficult to build and in no way satisfy my constituents who have justifiable concerns about the impact on the village and especially the primary school. This is situated along the route and has more than 70 pupils, the majority of whom walk along the road to school.

### **Route**

HS2 has taken a perverse decision to take a 13.8m route through Woore, over three sides of a long quadrangle. They could come off the M6 at Keele Services and take a 5.4m route via the disused railway, byway from Stoney Low and Three Mile Lane; alternatively there is a 6.4 mile route via Manor Road. I

would be grateful if you could look at the legalities of leaving at Keele and why HS2 has decided to avoid this route, which seems to me a more economical and environmentally friendly proposal.

### **Pollution**

With air pollution rising up the political agenda, it is also worrying that HS2 have not committed to Euro6 engines. Schedule 17 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows councils to withdraw permission if there are heavy vehicle movements exceeding 24 a day and they believe there will be an adverse environmental impact. How can this very long route conform to the environmental requirements and what would happen if Shropshire Council did not give permission as required under section 17 of the Act?

### **Costs and alternatives**

With costs spiralling out of control and the latest estimates exceeding £100bn, I would like to see this huge sum of money spent on other infrastructure projects. For instance, our regional airport connections to Birmingham and Manchester are poor. Mobile phone and broadband services are also inadequate. Superfast Broadband is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology which would allow every citizen in North Shropshire to compete on a level playing field with the whole world. The current lack of broadband disproportionately disadvantages people living in rural areas such as North Shropshire.

My constituents have not been reassured by HS2 that their lives will not be turned upside down for a long period by this project. Their village will suffer real damage and lives will be put at risk. I hope that your review will come to the conclusion that this colossal expenditure can be better used on other more beneficial infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Paterson', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP**