



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

23 July 2018

Our ref: NH/JDB/CR

Dear Chris,

Re: HS2 tunneling costs

I am writing further to the letter that was sent to your Department by Dominic Grieve MP on 11th July.

You will recall that Dominic, myself and Boris Johnson were united in representing the very strong local view that HS2 needed to look harder at the option to cross the Colne Valley via a tunnel rather than a viaduct. This argument was based on the clear benefit of avoiding the permanent loss of amenity that a viaduct would represent. However we also argued that HS2 were not offering a robust analysis of comparable costs. Indeed we argued, together with Hillingdon Council, that if all costs were genuinely taken into account the "tunnel premium" was much smaller than the number suggested by HS2.

Throughout this debate, we had a strong feeling that there was a distorting prejudice in favour of a viaduct, certainly within HS2.

I now understand that in the context of the Wendover works, HS2 tunneling costs are being referred to the Infrastructure Projects Authority for review. This comes as no surprise. What we would like to know is whether the Government will now treat our constituents in the same way as the people of Wendover. Will the Government be asking HS2 to review, in a transparent way, their cost analysis of a tunnel for the Colne Valley vs a viaduct? If not, may I ask why not?

Best wishes,

Nick Hurd MP
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Cc. Nusrat Ghani MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport