



From Lord Berkeley
07710431542, berkeleyafg@parliament.uk

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister

Cc Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport

24th March 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Time to pause HS2 for 6 months

I write on a day when you are rightly putting on further controls on people's movement in order to reduce the infection of the Corona Virus.

HS2 project and design work seems to be continuing around Euston in spite of your decision to have the Network Rail and HS2 rail works integrated and a cheaper and less risky design sought. In spite of this, temporary works to demolish and clear building and properties which clearly will no longer be required to any sensible new design continue. (see my letter to Andrew Stephenson MP dated 15 March 2020)

Further up the route in Harefield I received a blog (attached) showing HS2 contractors manhandling two protestors. Other locations are shown on other photos attached, all with HS2 or their contractors' staff are shown not complying with the social distancing rule, in spite of HS2's reply (in yellow). Whatever the rights and wrongs of the issues, these are some of no doubt many more cases where HS2, in spite of its denial, personnel of the Company and its contractors are clearly being put at risk of infection by failure to observe the social distancing rule.

So as the construction sector magazine CN says 'there is a strange irony in the strategies being pursued regarding the social distancing measures the government is urging people to adopt. As one contact pointed out to me this morning: "Most developers and construction companies have closed their head offices and sent the office staff home. But not the men on sites.'

Nicola Sturgeon has now confirmed that building sites in Scotland should close. I urge you to do the same, and include HS2 preliminary works contracts in this decision. As a former construction engineer, I am well aware that construction is a sector where worker health and safety is a daily concern. Unlike other industries, not following the rules can be a matter of life and death.

So I do urge you to close all HS2 construction sites including any temporary works sites for at least 6 months. Similarly, the project offices of HS2 and its contractors and suppliers are not critical works and I urge you to close them as well for at least 6 months.

I am also sure that ministers will want to look at the finances for HS2 and/or its cheaper alternatives in the light of the Government's unexpected expenditure on supporting business and people as a result of the Corona Virus, before deciding whether to allocate over £100bn to HS2. Ministers may also wish to consider whether, as a result of people getting used to work from home or remotely, demand for transport in the future will be reduced to the extent that HS2 in its entirety is no longer needed.

I look forward to your comments, Yours, Tony Tony Berkeley

Encl Letter Lord Berkeley to Andrew Stephenson MP on Euston

From: "JOHNSON, Boris" <boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>
Date: 21 March 2020 at 10:44:15 am GMT
To: "sally.cakebread@hotmail.co.uk" <sally.cakebread@hotmail.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Urgent HS2 workers breaching Covid 19

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=daTwsvRSGPU>

Dear Ms Cakebread,

Thank you very much for your email to Boris Johnson MP with concerns about hedgerow clearance and safety procedures of HS2 staff. Mr Johnson recently took these matters up directly with HS2 and has received the following reply:

"We currently have preliminary works taking place on Dews Lane to allow for its future widening, which is planned to start in April 2020. We have been undertaking vegetation clearance along the south side of Dews Lane this week and we have carefully managed our works to ensure the safety of the site team and members of the public.

Where vegetation clearance is taking place, ecological surveys have been undertaken to identify protected species or other ecological features which are potentially present. The works are supported by a team of ecologists who are appropriately qualified and experienced. The ecologists supervise the works where required, as well as providing technical guidance and compliance monitoring.

The personnel working on Dews Lane include security guards who are patrolling and securing the perimeter fencing and supervisors checking on the works to ensure they are progressed safely.

Dews Lane remains open for traffic to and from HOAC and for residents of Dews Lane.

We are following NHS and Public Health England guidance, as we have done throughout the emerging COVID-19 situation, and we are working closely with our Joint Venture partners, who are responsible for their own sites."


Thank you again for your email.

Kind regards

Alex Simpson

Office of Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP (Uxbridge and South Ruislip)

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

 please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Cakebread <sally.cakebread@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 20 March 2020 09:26
To: JOHNSON, Boris <boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Urgent HS2 workers breaching Covid 19

Dear Sir

At UB9 6JN Dews Lane Harefield in your constituency there are many HS2 workmen wearing orange who are close together and standing near members of the public. They are illegally destroying hedgerows with nesting birds.

Please call out the Army to this escalating situation.

Sally Cakebread

Maygoods Farm

Ub8 2er

Sent from my iPhone