



From Lord Berkeley
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Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport, SW1

8th July 2024

Dear Louise,

Mopping up HS2 after Tory disaster – the London end.

Congratulations on your appointment as S of S. Well done indeed!

You will be aware of my interest in HS2 and my various challenges to the previous Government's handling of its ballooning costs and lack of transparency etc. During the recess, along with Michael Byng and other experts, we have been debating various means of salvaging what is left of HS2 and saving as much money as possible.

Here we offer you some thoughts on this and possible solutions, which I am also sharing with Rachel Reeves MP, our new Chancellor.

The planned completion of HS2 was to take 20 years and the final budget was likely to reach more than £200 bn over this period.

From various disconnected statements by previous ministers since the Prime Minister's announcement October 2023, it appears that the preferred options were to close it down and recover what is left at minimum cost and delay, to complete HS2 from Old Oak Common (OOC) to Birmingham and the Hansacre connection to the WCML, and build OOC to Euston in tunnel with the new station at Euston only if it can be financed in the private sector.

Michael Byng and I offer the attached paper which demonstrates that a cheaper route from Old Oak Common to Euston is possible, can be financed in the private sector and can provide the capacity and train utilisation to one integrated station for HS2 and WCML trains very similar to the original HS2 plans. The Euston Express alternative also avoids the still unresolved safety risks of the HS2 scheme at the Euston portal end. We believe that it can be built within the limits of deviation of the HS2 route and/or any permitted development rights for Network Rail land.

I hope that this is helpful and would be pleased to discuss it with you and your officials.

Yours Tony,

Tony Berkeley