



From Lord Berkeley

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Sir Simon Case Esq CVO
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office, London SW1
6 October 2024

Dear Simon,

'Ministers have broken the Ministerial code by misleading Parliament on costs and timescales of HS2' – reference my letter dated 8 July 2021

is now more than three years ago that I wrote to you asking you to investigate my assertion that the **'HS2 Phase 1 Bill received Royal Assent only because Ministers misled Parliament multiple times, either by omission or misinformation, and that this misleading has continued with Phase 2A - for a project now expected to cost £142 bn, ten times the original estimate'**.

The figures are of course different now but evidence to support my request has at last been exposed to the public with the recent Panorama programme where a number of people gave very firm evidence that Nus Ghani MP, then a junior minister in the Department for Transport, not only misled parliament on the costs of Phase 1, but that she and the DfT Permanent Secretary had been present at meetings where this was discussed and that they had all heard that latest cost estimates from the HS2 Chair indicated that the project could not be built for the figure still being used by officials and given to the minister.

Furthermore, it is also clear that the reason for DfT hiding the higher figure from ministers was the fear that, if Parliament was told about the higher and more likely figure, it would not have approved Royal Assent for Phase 1 of the project.

Your initial response to my letter was to ask Bernadette Kelly, the DfT Permanent Secretary, to reply; not very helpful when I was querying the role of DfT and its minister. You subsequently responded that you could not investigate this because you needed the permission of the Prime Minister and that he would be unlikely to give it. As you are no doubt aware, there is now much more evidence appearing about cost escalation of different parts of the HS2 project, many questions about the reasons for the then PM, Rishi Sunak MP, deciding to cancel large parts of it in 2023, as well as about the extent to which the new Government should spend any more funding on completing parts or all of the project.

I therefore request that you review the reasons for rejecting my request over three years ago and ask the new PM's permission to investigate these allegations afresh. I can of course send you copies of the relevant correspondence but I expect that you have them on file.

I look forward to your comments,

Yours Tony

Lord Berkeley