



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr. Robert Jackson

Lead Member of the Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Friday 8th March 2024

Dear Mr Jackson,

As a result of our continued frustration with Network Rail's contribution to the Planning Inspectorate Hearing for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange proposal, on Monday 4th March 2024, we as the local MPs invited Gary Walsh, the East Midlands Route Director for Network Rail to a virtual meeting to discuss our concerns. Whilst we are grateful to him for accepting the meeting with us, we and representatives on the call from Blaby District Council and Friends of Narborough Station (FONS), continue to be concerned about the role Network Rail are playing in this hearing in providing independent and expert information and undertaking a network and capacity appraisal.

Chief among our concerns is the potential implications on the HNRFI business case of the proposed hourly increase in the passenger service which stops at Narborough and Hinckley known as Midlands Rail Hub. This is a valuable service increase which many of our constituents have been calling for. It would be deeply disappointing for this service increase to be jeopardised by HNRFI proposals, and as such it is crucial that Network Rail are fully transparent about the capacity issues and mitigations required.

In Monday's meeting we again raised the question of how Network Rail have derived their acceptable level-crossing barrier downtime figure of 45 minutes. The Applicant relies heavily on this figure to dismiss the concerns raised by residents of Narborough and Littlethorpe but there is a distinct lack of evidence and scientific data to back up how this figure can be applied to Narborough level crossing. It would make sense for the number to be determined by its context, and there are already significant delays caused by the barrier downtime in Narborough, without accounting for additional Midlands Rail Hub services and HNRFI freight trains.

Related to this, the question was raised of the incident that occurred on 6th December YEAR where an ambulance couldn't reach a passenger who fell ill at Narborough due to the length of the traffic queue caused by barrier downtime. Paramedics had to end up meeting the passenger at Nuneaton. Network Rail have been repeatedly asked to provide an assessment of this incident in relation to HNRFI.

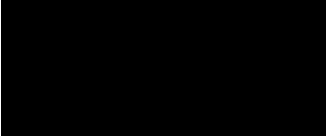
Finally, there is a great consequence to the information that Network Rail have been asked to provide. Our concern is that this information has come either too late, or not at all. We have asked Network Rail to provide us with advanced view of their submission to you in order to understand some of the implications on the matters highlighted above. This has yet to happen and as a result,



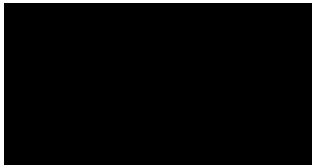
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the Planning Inspectorate hearing will close without key stakeholders having sight of this information.

Yours Sincerely,



Alberto Costa MP
Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire



Dr Luke Evans MP
Member of Parliament for Bosworth