

The Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE
Minister for Rail
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

25 September 2024

Dear Peter,

Re: Open letter from BusinessLDN about Euston Station

I am writing about the future of Euston station, specifically the construction of the HS2 tunnel from Old Oak Common to Euston.

As you know, a contract has been agreed for construction of the HS2 tunnels from Euston to West Ruislip, including the Old Oak Common to Euston section. The design of the tunnels has been agreed and tunnel boring machines contracted, with one already on site and the second expected soon.

In July, the National Audit Office flagged the need for a decision on the existing Old Oak Common to Euston tunnelling contract by the end of the summer. Given costs already incurred, and with existing infrastructure and site teams in place, there will never be a cheaper time to build this tunnel than now. If the decision is further delayed it would lead to significant remobilisation costs.

Failure to complete this section would further curtail North-South capacity and reduce the future value of HS2 as a key national infrastructure asset. According to HS2's 2023/24 annual report, it could also affect the organisation's ability to safely operate and maintain Old Oak Common station and train services across HS2, the Great Western Main Line and the Elizabeth line.

Connecting Euston to the high-speed rail network, with an integrated station to provide a good passenger experience, is vital to delivering the promise of regeneration in the area. With effective partnership between the private sector, London government and central government, Euston could, according to Camden Council's analysis, contribute £41bn to economic output by 2053 – not least through supporting the existing Knowledge Quarter and in particular, its life sciences growth. It would also enable the delivery of 2,500 homes, providing a significant boost to the Government's growth mission.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and/or to convene our members with your team to find a way forward. My team shall also be making this letter public and sharing with media.

Yours sincerely,
John Dickie
Chief Executive