



**Doncaster**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Ros Jones**  
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Dear Colleague

Doncaster Council has today submitted its response to the Government Route Refinement consultation on HS2 Phase 2B. Please find enclosed a copy for your information.

This is a hugely important development for our region and the UK as a whole. I would therefore encourage you to read and consider the contents of our response in detail. It exposes the reality of the new proposal and debunks a number of misleading claims, which have been made since the Sheffield Midland option was announced by Sir David Higgins.

The new proposal will simply not deliver for South Yorkshire and the Sheffield City Region. Instead the Sheffield Midland spur option:

- Provides fewer and smaller trains, giving fewer seats for Sheffield City Region passengers
- Offers inferior connectivity and journey times (regionally and nationally)
- Delivers much less economic benefit and generates fewer jobs
- Serves most of the region's priority growth areas less effectively; yet
- Costs more money

Indeed, our analysis demonstrates that, far from saving £1bn as claimed by Sir David Higgins, when the true costs are taken into account, the new proposal will actually cost the public purse more, to both build and run. This includes additional operating costs of £1.7bn that have simply not been taken into account.

In 2014 Sir David Higgins recognised the problems with the new proposal and dismissed it out of hand, correctly identifying that it does not deliver for our people or our businesses. He was right then, and that position is still right today.

Furthermore, in addition to the impact on the city region as a whole, the proposal brings devastation to our communities, including many that already feel left behind by Government policies, bringing further misery to hard working communities and families that are just about managing.

The new proposals neither serve Sheffield or the wider region effectively. In South Yorkshire, they do little for Barnsley, Doncaster or Rotherham. This is despite that fact that the majority of the county's population resides in these areas, which also deliver the majority of our GVA.

The new proposal is the wrong solution for the Sheffield City Region, Yorkshire and the North, and it is the wrong solution for UK PLC. It is the option that nobody wanted.

I would therefore encourage you to support this response and call on the Secretary of State to reject the new route proposals.

Yours sincerely

**Ros Jones**  
**Mayor of Doncaster**