



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Andrew Stephenson MP

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Dear Owen,

Thank you for the constructive meeting on the 15 April where we discussed your concerns regarding the impacts of HS2 construction traffic on the village of Woore.

As per my letter of 11 May, we discussed the option of undertaking an independent road safety assessment, prior to detailed design, of the proposed additional mitigation measures. These include the three pedestrian crossings on the A51 south of Woore village and the provision of a guard railing on the pavement outside the school in the village.

Shropshire Council's highway Consultants WSP have undertaken the assessment and made their conclusions which senior representatives of Shropshire Council have seen.

The WSP assessment concludes that introducing zebra crossings at three locations to the south of Woore would not be in accordance with national guidance as the average speed of traffic on the road is above the 34mph threshold required for such crossings. It also states that there is no evidence of an identified safety risk at Woore Primary School to warrant introducing a new guard railing.

In light of the assessment, I will not instruct HS2 Ltd to incorporate the zebra crossings or guard rail into the design of Phase 2a. However, I note that the report also suggests investigations could be undertaken to reduce the speed limit on the approach to Woore to 30mph and in Woore itself to 20mph, which is a matter for Shropshire Council to consider as the local highway authority.

I will ensure that HS2 Ltd continues to engage with representatives of Woore Parish Council and Shropshire Council as well as yourself, as the scheme moves into detailed design.

As I have said previously, I am keen for HS2 Ltd to do more to mitigate the impacts of HS2 works on local communities and I hope the constructive engagement we have had around the mitigation for Woore shows my intent in this regard.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stephenson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

ANDREW STEPHENSON MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT