



Department  
for Transport

Helen Morgan MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State  
**Huw Merriman MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [huw.merriman@dft.gov.uk](mailto:huw.merriman@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: MC/424798

20 March 2023

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email of 10 March, about the impact of delays to HS2 construction and the A51 and Newcastle Road.

I appreciate your concerns. As you are aware, last week the Government updated Parliament on its transport capital investment programme. A copy of the Transport Secretary's statement is available [online here](#). This sets out that due to inflationary pressures and project costs we are intending to rephase construction of Phase 2 by two years. We are still committed to delivering HS2 Phase 2a between the West Midlands and Crewe and aim to deliver high-speed services to Crewe and the Northwest as soon as possible after accounting for the delay in construction.

My officials will be working closely with HS2 Ltd and its supply chain over the coming weeks to identify any short-term changes necessary to the Phase 2a construction programme. This will include consideration of any advance road works such as the ones you mention in your email.

I recognise that the potential impact of the removal of traffic calming measures and of the planned HGV traffic in Woore is a cause for concern and I will ask my officials to raise this issue with their counterparts in HS2 Ltd.

While Phase 2a is being delayed, HS2's construction will continue to support thousands of jobs, benefit UK business of all sizes, and lay the foundations for the arrival of more new rail services into the next decade and beyond.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours ever,

**HUW MERRIMAN MP**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**