

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HS2?

1. A requirement of the HS2 business case is to cut £8.3 billion from current rail services.
2. While Trans-Pennine and Midland Mainline electrification projects have been 'paused', the Henty Review could cancel any other rail project, except HS2. Other projects, such as Ely-Soham double-tracking have already been cancelled.
3. Despite supporters of HS2 claiming the West Coast Mainline is 'full', London Midland started operating more trains in 2014. Permission was given this year for new London-Blackpool services; and only half the freight paths are used.
4. A report from the Major Projects Authority in November 2014 highlighted 75 serious concerns over HS2, but the Government have refused Freedom of Information requests to release this information, despite the 'Black Spider' case setting a legal precedent for release.
5. At least 14 current stations, such as Stockport and Coventry would have fewer services if HS2 goes ahead, whilst another 17 would get slower trains.

6. If HS2 goes ahead, services all along the West Coast Mainline will be disrupted by around 20 years of construction at Euston. This work includes closing 2 of the 6 approach tracks for existing trains. No information about this disruption has been published, but the ORR has said some trains would have to terminate at Queens Park.
7. Originally HS2 was projected to cost £33bn, but now this figure stands at £50bn. However, this cost is still worked out on 2011 prices and does not include financing; the full cost of Euston station; the ongoing operational subsidy; or integrating HS2 into the existing transport network.
8. On 1st June 2015, HS2 Ltd said construction would mean 183 weekend closures on the rail network, but just a month later the DfT said it would be 223.
9. Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Margaret Hodge MP described HS2 modelling as '*shocking*', '*potty*' and '*bonkers*' saying HS2 Ltd were "*biasing the assumptions*".
10. You Gov polling from July 2015 shows only 32% of the public support HS2.