

HS2

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Our ref: MP-18-129

RT Hon Andrea Leadsom MP

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

4 January 2019

Dear Mrs Leadsom

Thank you for your letter regarding the All Party Parliamentary Group for Rail Meeting in November.

Firstly I would like to confirm that it our intention at HS2 Ltd to ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget agreed with the DfT.

At the meeting, which your member of staff provided you with a summary of, I responded to direct questions from Members about what could be done to change scope in an effort to reduce cost. In response I set out a number of options which you have correctly referred to.

However, I was also clear that HS2 Ltd is working to the scope and budget of the project which the Government has set, and for which detailed debate in Parliament has taken place.

If at some point in the future we are instructed to consider any of these options, then more detailed work on the effect of such changes would of course take place. I can assure you that any impact on communities and the findings within the Environmental Statement would be fully investigated and discussed.

I trust this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Thurston

Chief Executive

High Speed Two Limited