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Dear Sir/Madam

### **High Speed Two: Consultation on Exceptional Hardship Scheme for Phase Two**

On 28 January Patrick McLoughlin, the Secretary of State for Transport, announced the initial preferred route, station and depot options for extending the national high speed rail network beyond Birmingham to Manchester via Staffordshire and Cheshire, and to Leeds via the West Midlands and South Yorkshire (known as Phase Two of HS2).

This is vital project that will help promote economic growth by providing the long-term transport capacity our country needs. HS2 will become a national asset that will improve services between our cities and regions and free up substantial space on the existing railway. We expect to consult on the initial preferred line of route, station and depot options later in 2013.

Alongside the initial preferred route the Government also launched a consultation on the Exceptional Hardship Scheme (EHS) which aims to provide assistance for those property owners who are most acutely affected by the proposals in the short term. This consultation opened today and will be open for 13 weeks, closing on 29 April 2013.

The consultation document sets out a proposed package of measures designed for owners-occupiers of property along the line of route. These measures reflect our commitment to providing compensation and assistance for those affected by the building of the new railway network. The EHS would be introduced as an additional and discretionary interim measure to help those who have a pressing need to sell their properties and who cannot do so, or can only do so at a substantial loss, and who cannot wait until such time as the statutory blight provisions apply.

Most large infrastructure projects compensate property owners only at a later stage of development, when statutory blight measures apply. The attached information sheet provides details on statutory blight measures; further information is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government and in a series of documents available on their website (please see the links below).



We have written to property and land owners who may be directly affected by the announcement of the initial preferred route to inform them about the announcement and the consultation regarding the EHS. We have also sent information to local authorities along the initial preferred route, central and relevant local libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux and will be placing information about the consultation in local newspapers.

Full details of the proposals, consultation documents and ways to respond can be found on the consultation website ([www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)) and also in the attached leaflet. We would like to encourage people to make use of the online and electronic formats wherever possible, however paper copies of the documents can be ordered online at [www.dft.gov.uk/orderingpublications](http://www.dft.gov.uk/orderingpublications) or by telephone on 0300 123 1102.

We encourage you to help shape the Government's policy by commenting on our proposals. Responses to the consultation can be submitted online [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk) or by completing a response form and returning it by email to: [HS2EHS@ipsos.com](mailto:HS2EHS@ipsos.com) or by post to: FREEPOST PHASE 2 EHS CONSULTATION.

If you have other questions about the proposals or would like to receive an information pack (containing leaflets, posters and hardcopies of the consultation document) please contact 020 7944 4908 or email [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clinton Leeks', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Clinton Leeks**  
**Director of External & Parliamentary Relations**



## **Compulsory Purchase and Compensation – links to documents**

Compulsory purchase and compensation booklet 1: procedure

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-1-procedure>

Compulsory purchase and compensation booklet 2: compensation to business owners and occupiers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-2-compensation-to-business-owners-and-occupiers>

Compulsory purchase and compensation booklet 3: compensation to agricultural owners and occupiers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-3-compensation-to-agricultural-owners-and-occupiers>

Compulsory purchase and compensation booklet 4: compensation to residential owners and occupiers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-4-compensation-to-residential-owners-and-occupiers>

Compulsory purchase and compensation booklet 5: reducing the adverse effects of public development

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-5-reducing-the-adverse-effects-of-public-development>