



Michael Fabricant MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

28 January, 2013

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State of Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Patrick,

The Government's consultation on High Speed 2 property consultation provides an opportunity for my constituents and parliamentary colleagues to contribute to this important debate. Consulting widely on such a significant infrastructure scheme is critical if we are to achieve the compensation scheme my constituents deserve.

A project of this scale deserves well-considered compensation for property owners. For many people, the impact of HS2 on their property is very real, stressful and traumatic. It is imperative that the Government implements its proposals properly with the suggested changes that I, my constituents and some of my colleagues are proposing.

While I am pleased by some of the measures, I encourage the Government to adopt an approach that shows flexibility around the different compensation areas, clarifies meanings, focuses on the value of the loss incurred on properties, and provides greater transparency on the compensation process.

My main concern is on the Government's refusal to implement a property bond scheme. A property bond could support local communities and local economies and ensure that High Speed 2 does not adversely affect those people who will not directly benefit from the project.

As I wrote in my letter to you on 21 January, the property bond scheme continues to receive widespread support: from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the National Association of Estate Agents, the National Farmers' Union, and the High Speed 2 Action Alliance among others. Also, as the consultation paper itself admits, the private sector has devised such a scheme in the past for proposed new runways at Heathrow and Stansted, and Central Railways in relation to a new freight railway. I therefore do not accept that the scheme is impractical.

from the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Lichfield

including the City of Lichfield, Abbots Bromley, Alrewas, Armitage, Burntwood, Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Colton, Fradley, Hammerwich, Handsacre, Kings Bromley, Longdon, the Ridwares, Streethay, Whittington, and Yoxall.

website and email form: www.michael.fabricant.mp.co.uk



I now ask for a commitment from the Government to reconsider its policy on the property bond and to explain in greater detail why it is against this important contribution to the High Speed 2 property compensation debate. I hope the Government might change its mind and adopt this bond which will give reassurance to my constituents and others along the route of HS2.

I enclose my detailed response to the consultation. I look forward to the Government's considered reply.

Yours ever,
Michael

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