Dear Robert,

HS2

Thank you for your letter of 13 June (published on our website), and for your assurances about examining HS2 Limited on “alleged defects in the Environmental Statement” as well as addressing the concerns raised in our report in your deliberations.

The Environmental Audit Committee would now like to raise a further issue with you, following correspondence from Cheryl Gillan MP, attached to this letter. I would be grateful for your Committee’s view on the two fundamental questions she raises: whether the Aarhus Convention applies to the current hybrid bill parliamentary process, and if so whether the Convention’s obligations have been met.

We would welcome any other thoughts you have on the other points raised in Cheryl Gillan’s letter, and also your response to the following questions:

How will issues raised by the public consultation on the HS2 Environmental Statement, and summarised in the report by Golder Associates, be taken into account in the Select Committee’s deliberations?

How will the issues raised in the public consultation be used to inform the Select Committee about any inadequacies in the Environmental Statement and to identify where additional information should be provided by HS2 Limited?

HS2 Limited’s assessment, noted in our report, was that 40% of the route had not been surveyed when the Environmental Statement was published. What plans does the Select Committee have to request further environmental information from HS2 Limited, and to ensure that any further information on environmental impacts is made publicly accessible and is published for consultation as it becomes available?

What if any additional environmental information has already been made available by HS2 Limited to the Select Committee during its deliberations, and when will any such information be made publicly available?

I am copying this letter to Cheryl Gillan MP, HS2 Limited and to Robert Goodwill MP.

Sincerely,

Joan Walley MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee