Dear Ms Walley

Your letter of 14 October concerning environmental statement matters

Thank you for your letter.

Tomorrow, 24 October, and next week, the Committee will be hearing argument from HS2, HS2 Action Alliance and Warwickshire County Council on the issue of alleged defects in the environmental statement and whether, if any such defects exist, they are a matter for the Committee. Depending on the outcome of those sessions, the Committee may schedule further sessions to look at the nature of such alleged defects. The matter of 40% non-surveying of the route will, I fully expect, be explored during the sessions with Warwickshire County Council.

The Committee have copies of the Golder summary of consultation responses and can refer to it throughout their proceedings. In their argument to the Committee, HS2 Action Alliance among others will no doubt refer to issues that arose in the public consultation and to the alleged inadequacy of the Golder summary.

I can confirm that no additional environmental information has been made available to the Committee at this early stage of its proceedings, other than that associated with the first set of additional provisions deposited in September, on which petitioning ran until last Friday, 17 October.

While the role of the hybrid bill committee may be considered part of the mode of compliance of parliamentary proceedings with external conventions, I am not at this stage convinced that compliance itself is a matter for the Committee, and therefore on that I refer you to the response of the Department.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Robert Syms MP
Committee Chair