I am writing to as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee regarding Crossrail 2 and its potential impact on the Francis Crick Institute, a major scientific facility currently under construction near St Pancras Station.

In 2011 we conducted an inquiry on plans for the Francis Crick Institute—then known as the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation—and concluded that it was “a project of national importance with the potential to deliver significant improvements in human and animal health”.

We noted in our report that vibrations from nearby the Northern and Victoria underground lines might interfere with the sensitive scientific equipment to be housed at the new Institute. However, we were reassured that provisions had been made during the planning stage to ensure that this would not be an issue. We were, therefore, concerned to be told during a recent Committee visit that one proposed route for Crossrail 2 could run close to the site of the Institute, potentially posing significant technical problems.

I would be grateful if you could clarify the following matters:

• What routes in the vicinity of the Institute are under consideration for Crossrail 2 and when will a decision on the preferred route be made?
• What risk assessment has been conducted on the potential impacts of Crossrail 2 on construction and operation of the Francis Crick Institute?
• What dialogue, if any, has taken place with the Francis Crick Institute’s Board of Management with regard to Crossrail 2?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Miller
Chair