Ms Lilian Greenwood MP  
Chair, Transport Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  

16 March 2018

Dear Chair

I am writing following the third oral evidence session of the Transport Select Committee’s inquiry into rail infrastructure investment. At the session, one of the witnesses, Professor Andrew Smith from the University of Leeds, suggested that there was no ‘stop-start’ funding in the Control Period system, an assertion that I would like, with respect, to refute.

Both Network Rail’s spending profile and evidence from suppliers in the rail supply chain show that the industry has seen damaging ‘boom and bust’ spending throughout Control Periods since 2000 – well before Network Rail reclassification, which Professor Smith gave as the reason for there not being boom and bust. This is shown in the graph below, which I shared with Committee members when I gave evidence on 29 January.

As you and the Transport Select Committee knows, with investment, jobs and the survival of smaller companies at risk, this is an issue of high sensitivity to the rail supply chain and we are therefore keen to find a practical solution to the issue.

I hope this letter helps clarify the situation. Please do let me know if RIA can be of any further assistance in your inquiry into rail infrastructure investment.

Yours sincerely

Darren Caplan  
Chief Executive, Railway Industry Association