



HOUSE OF LORDS

Economic Affairs Committee

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I am writing regarding the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee's planned oral evidence session with you on 2 April. I understand that while this was previously agreed between our respective officials, you are now encountering scheduling difficulties for this week. While I recognise that the week commencing 1 April may be particularly busy, I must emphasize the importance for our Committee of hearing evidence from you before the Easter recess.

We would greatly value your contributions to our follow-up inquiry on High Speed 2, particularly in light of the forthcoming zero-based review of major capital spending as part of the Spending Review.

This report is time-sensitive. At the end of this parliamentary session, several members who have contributed greatly to this inquiry will be required to leave the Committee under the rotation rule. Agreeing a report with different Committee members than those who have considered the evidence is an undesirable circumstance. In order to publish our report before one might usually expect the session to end in May, we will conclude taking evidence on High Speed 2 before the Easter recess. A session in May or June would therefore be too late to accommodate your evidence in our report.

The Rt Hon the Lord Forsyth of Drumlean
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee