



HOUSE OF LORDS  
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The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for the written evidence which the Department for Transport submitted to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee inquiry into the economic case for High Speed 2 and for agreeing to provide oral evidence to the Committee on 9 December.

The Strategic Case for HS2 states one of the objectives is to “provide sufficient capacity to meet long term demand”. In your written evidence you state that “HS2 ultimately triples the seats from 11,300 to 34,900 departing London Euston during the peak hour. HS2 also releases capacity on the existing network to introduce new services.”

It has emerged from our inquiry there are varying views on whether trains in and out of Euston are overcrowded and whether there is spare capacity on the West Coast Main Line.

I would therefore be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the following data for the 2013/14 financial year:

1. The average (a) total number of passengers and (b) the total number of seats available in (i) standard class and (ii) first class for the all trains leaving and arriving at Euston across the week, broken down by operator, destination and whether the train is peak or off-peak.

Please provide a source for the passenger loadings data, whether count data or modelled.

2. The percentage of standing capacity used on each of the trains covered by Question 1, including a definition of standing capacity for each train.

3. Details of any plans to increase the seating and standing capacity of trains leaving and arriving at Euston in peak times.

I have asked the Committee Secretariat to provide any further details that Department for Transport officials require to collate this data and how the information can be shared with the Committee to take account of any concerns regarding commercial sensitivity.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Chris*

(Hollick)  
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee