



**HILLINGDON**

LONDON

Nusrat Ghani MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

Ref: RP.je

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Dear Ms Ghani

I refer to your answer given to the question raised by Dame Cheryl Gillan MP, in the House of Commons on the 29<sup>th</sup> April "requesting that all enabling works for HS2 in Buckinghamshire is paused until notice to proceed to the main works contractors has been approved".

Within your response you stated: "Once HS2 Ltd has reached agreement with its suppliers and the Government are satisfied about both affordability and value for money, we will make a full business case for phase 1. This will inform notice to proceed, which is the formal contractual process that enables each phase 1 supplier to move from design and development to construction. Notice to proceed is scheduled to take place later this year. The works that are now taking place are necessary to enable the construction of HS2 to move forward in accordance with the programme, following notice to proceed".

Whilst I congratulate you in defending the Government's current position on HS2 in your response to Dame Cheryl Gillan and the other MPs who questioned the validity of this project on both financial and other grounds, I regret having to inform you that residents, not only in my borough, but across the country do not agree. They see the approach of spending billions of pounds on enabling works, when there is no current realistic business case for the HS2 project, as not what is expected of Government and certainly not a Conservative Government.

**COUNCILLOR RAY PUDDIFOOT MBE**  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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In a nutshell, if the case for HS2 is so compelling, given that it was given the go ahead in 2013 and has to date consumed billions of pounds of public money, why will it take until December before the Government "are satisfied about affordability and value for money". Given that you are not prepared to stop work at this time could I ask if it is at all possible to produce the business case as a matter of urgency, as taking seven months to do so, whilst continuing to fund enabling works, is really not an acceptable way forward.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE**  
**Leader of the Council**