

Richard Fuller MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

LONDON SW1A 0AA

By email

14th October 2022

Dear Anne-Marie,

I am writing in my capacity as a constituency MP in relation to the current status of the East West Rail project which would pass through my constituency as part of the route between Bedford and Cambridge.

As you will be aware, Connection Stage 1 (CS1) of the project is currently under construction and will provide a rail service from Oxford to Bletchley and Milton Keynes. Connection Stage 2 (CS2, between Bletchley and Bedford) and Connection Stage 3 (CS3, between Bedford and Cambridge) of the project are currently at development stage. East West Rail's most recent consultation on the proposed route from Bedford to Cambridge concluded more than a year ago and there has been considerable concern among my constituents about the adequacies of that, and an earlier, consultation as well concerns about the robustness of the business case.

In her letter of the 18th February, the former minister, Wendy Morton, indicated to me that: *"EWR Co. is currently undertaking an exercise to review the strategic and economic case for the railway and to consider mode options, routes and funding constraints in that light. I am expecting to review its findings at the end of May, and would be pleased to discuss them with you at this point."*

Since then, there have been a number of changes in the Department. The position remains unclear and between the promised review of findings in May and the inclusion of East West Rail on the list of projects for potential acceleration in September, no further information was published about the plans and the concerns which many of my constituents have raised before about the absence of a sound business case, the environmental considerations and the expense of delivering the remainder of the project all remain.

In the circumstances, I would be grateful if you would provide clarity and detail on the proposals for East West Rail, the current status of the pending business case of East West Rail and when this might be published. In the circumstances, I would recommend that no formal decision is made until there has been time for a full public review of the business case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard".

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire
Westminster: 0207 219 8602 Constituency: 01767 313385
Email: richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.richardfuller.co.uk