



Department for Transport

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Further work on broad options for Scotland

I am writing to you to set out the objectives for taking forward work on Scotland, building on the current advisory role that HS2 Ltd has had so far.

In October 2012 the Secretary of State for Transport announced that the Department for Transport would take forward "*a study on the way to get fast journeys further north still, with the aim of getting the journey from Scotland to London to under three hours.*"

Since then the Department for Transport has been in discussions with Transport Scotland on Scotland's connectivity needs, discussing rail capacity and connectivity north and south of the border. The Secretary of State would like HS2 Ltd to build on this understanding and carry out the early work that identifies the broad options available to make capacity and journey time improvements on intercity routes between northern England and Scotland. HS2 Ltd will engage Network Rail to work alongside them in developing these options.

The objective of the study is to provide a report to the Secretary of State for Transport that identifies the broad options available and provides the evidence base for any future decisions, with a draft report ready in time for Summer Recess 2014. The work should consider high speed options, upgrades to existing infrastructure, or a combination of the two, looking at both the East and West Coast rail corridors. We would expect the report will be published alongside a decision by the Secretary of State on next steps.

With flexibility to how it is achieved, HS2 Ltd should look at options to:

- Make improvements to current journey times from Edinburgh and Glasgow to cities further south, including options that reduce journey times to London to 3 hours or under.
- Provide additional passenger and freight capacity where it is projected that future demand will not otherwise be met.

The report should discuss the overall characteristics of the different options and describe the work that would be necessary to develop them further. HS2 Ltd (and Network Rail) will work with the Department, the Scotland Office and Transport Scotland, liaising with Local Authorities in confidence as necessary, and report regularly on progress to a Steering Group chaired by the Department.

This instruction letter builds on the existing remit letter from the Secretary of State.

Tom, Secretary

David

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Director General, High Speed 2