

Grant Shapps MP  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Thursday 9 June 2022

Dear Mr Shapps

**Golborne Link and HS2 Services to Scotland**

I am writing to express my concerns about the scrapping of the Golborne Link from the HS2 project.

To remove this link to the West Coast Main Line without any apparent alternative will seriously damage the prospects for the future success of high speed rail services to Scotland.

Not only will journey times be lengthened but capacity on the WCML will also be compromised resulting in fewer services being able to run.

All of this appears to be at odds with the stated policies of the Westminster and Holyrood Governments of achieving modal shift from high carbon to low carbon transport modes.

In the case of Anglo-Scottish services it is well understood that a journey time of 3 hours is necessary to ensure the majority of journeys from Central Scotland to London are made by rail as opposed to by air.

I would be grateful if you would please advise:

What alternatives are now to be considered? In particular, what further upgrades to the rail network are to be undertaken to ensure that a journey time of 3 hours from Central Scotland to London is achievable by HS2 services?

What timescales are envisaged for this work?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Tetlaw  
Rail spokesperson, Transform Scotland