

Government announces independent review into HS2 programme

August 21, 2019



The Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has today (Wednesday 21 August 2019) published the [terms of reference and timetable for an independent review into the High Speed 2 \(HS2\) project](#).

Douglas Oakervee, who has built up considerable knowledge on a wide range of major projects over the course of his 60 year career, will lead the review and will work with Lord Berkeley as his deputy. They will

be supported by a panel of experts, bringing together a range of perspectives from business, academia and the transport sector to ensure an independent, thorough and objective assessment of the project. Panellists will each be consulted on the report's conclusions.

The terms of reference published today confirm that the independently-led government review will look at whether and how HS2 should proceed, using all existing evidence on the project to consider:

- its benefits and impacts
- affordability and efficiency
- deliverability and scope
- its phasing, including its relationship with Northern Powerhouse Rail

A final report will be sent to the Secretary of State, with oversight from the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, by the autumn. The report will inform the government's decisions on next steps for the project. Limited, largely preparatory works, on the project will continue in parallel with the report's work.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

The Prime Minister has been clear that transport infrastructure has the potential to drive economic growth, redistribute opportunity and support towns and cities across the UK, but that investments must be subject to continuous assessment of their costs and benefits.

That's why we are undertaking this independent and rigorous review of HS2.

Douglas Oakervee and his expert panel will consider all the evidence available, and provide the department with clear advice on the future of the project.

Douglas Oakervee said:

The Prime Minister has asked me to lead this important review into the HS2 programme. I looking forward to working with my deputy, Lord Berkeley, to advise the government on how and whether to progress with HS2, based on all existing evidence.