



3 June 2010

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Dept for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

Urgent: Action needed to ensure direct western rail access to Heathrow

We refer to the Heathrow Hub Proposal and to the possibility of High Speed Rail Access to Heathrow Airport, currently being reviewed by the Government.

The Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce and the newly formed Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, together with our business colleagues across Southern England, are concerned that High Speed Rail, as currently proposed under the "HS2" review, does not provide a fast rail link to businesses in the south and west of England and omits to connect to the UK international air hub at Heathrow Airport. On the other hand, the Heathrow Hub Proposal gives the opportunity to provide High Speed Rail that fully integrates Heathrow Airport and will create improved transport links to/from Heathrow and the rest of the country, together with good links to the south and southwest regions of England.

Thus, we urge the new Government to grasp the opportunity to deliver wider economic and environmental benefits to the region by supporting the idea of creating a High Speed Rail link between the west and Heathrow as laid out in the Heathrow Hub proposal included in the Conservative Party manifesto.

This Chamber of Commerce responds to local and national consultations on transport, addressing issues that hold back economic growth in our region. Strategic national road and rail networks are very significant for Southampton as a major port and cruise passenger terminal, international transport hub and a large urban area. On 30 June the Chamber's Planning & Transport Committee will host a consultation event on Hampshire's LTP3.

We trust these comments in support of the Heathrow Hub Proposal will meet with your approval.

Yours faithfully

Captain James Chestnutt
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Area Director for Southampton

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of local business*

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