

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 2AA

12 February 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

One year ago this week, you showed great leadership and took the very important decision to proceed with the HS2 project. You took that decision because you can see, as we do, that building a national high speed rail network is fundamental to levelling-up and decarbonising Britain.

Since that decision last year the project has made tremendous progress, with full-scale construction underway and some 13,000 jobs having already been created in delivering HS2.

Having taken that decision last year, the Government is now rightly considering the right path forward to create an “Integrated Rail Plan” for the Midlands and North, taking into account the advice it has received from the National Infrastructure Commission.

We write to you today, as leaders representing some of the UK’s biggest rail, engineering and construction firms, with a total of over 72,000 employees, to urge you most strongly to ensure that as many parts of the UK as possible benefit from HS2 and the IRP, and that the much-needed connectivity improvements between Yorkshire, the East Midlands and the West Midlands are prioritised. In our view, this is vital if we are to ensure the benefits of the government’s investment in HS2 are felt far and wide across the country.

At the same time as urging you to give the go ahead to these projects, we would also like to make clear that it is well understood within the industry that this investment needs to be affordable to the country. We recognise that the industry has an important role to work with the Government, HS2 Ltd, and other relevant parties, to deliver these projects as efficiently and affordably as possible. On behalf of our industry, we fully commit to doing so.

High speed rail has a hugely important part to play in the environmental, economic and social future of our country. Over the coming decades, we believe there should be a programme to ensure its benefits reach all of the nations and regions of Britain. We urge you to build on the announcement made one year ago, and give the go ahead for the next, vital parts of that programme.

Yours sincerely,

James Fox and Tim Jones  
Commercial Director and  
Managing Director  
**3Squared**

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**AECOM Europe**

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Managing Director, UK&I  
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Cc: Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport