



Department
for Transport

Russell Borthwick
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From the Minister of State
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Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This has been passed to the Department for Transport to respond about North-East Scotland rail proposal for funding. I am replying as the Minister responsible for Rail. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my reply.

Our new vision for transport will focus on the forms of transport that matter most to people, that best drive growth and jobs, and truly levels up our country.

We will take every pound that would have been spent extending HS2 beyond Birmingham and instead invest £36 billion in transport improvements that will benefit far more people, in far more places, far more quickly. This includes delivering greater connectivity for both Scotland, including through improvements to the A75 between Gretna and Stranraer.

However, transport policy is devolved meaning that decisions in Scotland are made by the Scottish Government. The Barnett formula will continue to apply in the usual way for all three devolved administrations as set out in the published Statement of Funding Policy document.

I understand you are in contact with officials from my department and I have requested that they pass this letter on to Transport Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

HUW MERRIMAN MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT