



Department  
for Transport

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Our Ref: 318470  
Your Ref:

24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Sir John Harman  
Chair, Huddersfield Unlimited  
David Wyles  
Huddersfield Civic Society

Dear Sir John Harman and David Wyles

## **Levelling up northern towns, rail electrification and the Trans Pennine route**

Thank you for your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. We welcome your support for the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) programme as a critical further step toward our commitment to levelling up Northern towns and cities.

We recognise the widespread support for the implementation of a fully electrified route and the environmental benefits you have highlighted for doing so. The Government is committed to rail decarbonisation to meet our target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Network Rail-led TDNS will inform Government decisions about the scale and pace of rail decarbonisation and Department's forthcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

TRU is the largest planned investment on the existing railway in the next five years; prioritising reliability, capacity and improved journey times. Network Rail continue to progress development and design of the programme, including the examination of the case for full electrification of the route. We are expecting to bring forward a case for funding and approvals by mid-2021, and we will be in a position to give you a fuller update at that time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Murphy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine Murphy  
Rail Infrastructure North  
Department for Transport