

Andrew Rosindell MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Wendy Morton MP

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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 11 January to Grant Shapps, about the proposed new station at Beam Park. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this issue.

I appreciate that there is further work being undertaken by the Greater London Authority to support the business case for the proposed new station. I also note the economic and social benefits such a new station could deliver you highlighted in your letter, and in your comments during the Westminster Hall debate between myself and Jon Cruddas MP on 11 January.

In my speech, I made clear the requirements that my Department needs in order to support a new station at Beam Park. Notably, that the Department is to be held harmless from any financial risk that the new station presents, particularly given the financial pressures on operating the national railway with lower forecast demand than previously anticipated. Additional operational costs to support the current service, and the abstraction such a new station would have on its neighbouring stations only a mile either side will also need to be addressed, with assurances provided thereof.

The Department continues to support opportunities to develop and enhance the existing stations to cater for the planned additional demand in and around Beam Park. The Greater London Authority have been encouraged to focus their attention on opportunities to improve access to these stations and I look forward to understanding what progress they have also made in this area. I understand that the Greater London Authority will be in communication with the Department in due course and I will continue working with them to deliver the best value for money and affordable transport provisions for the area.

Yours sincerely,

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WENDY MORTON MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT