



Department
for Transport

From the Minister of State
Andrew Stephenson MP

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Stuart McMillan MSP
Convener of the Delegated Powers
and Law Reform Committee
The Scottish Parliament
T1.01, Chamber Office
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

8 June 2022

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May and for your Committee's careful consideration of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill. It contains some detailed issues which the Department will consider as the Bill progresses.

In relation to your question regarding the trunk road network, the approach taken in the Bill has been to draft comprehensive measures to address issues that could arise along the route. As you may be aware, it is common for hybrid bills to be amended via 'additional provisions', which make changes to the design in response to requests from affected parties or further information coming to light. It is therefore expedient for the Bill to contain powers which could be necessary to construct an amended scheme, even if they are not necessary to deliver the scheme in the Bill as deposited. Similarly, changes along the line of route such as the discovery of heritage sites or the redesignation of roads or public rights of way could lead to additional powers needing to be used.

In the case of the trunk road network, therefore, the inclusion of these powers in the Bill is a pragmatic approach to future changes which could affect how powers are used in the construction of the scheme.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee.

ANDREW STEPHENSON MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT