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Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

highspeedrail@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.dft.gov.uk
Ref: F0007521

10 May 2011

Dear xxxxxxxx,

I am writing in response to your request of 30 March 2011 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act) regarding information on forecast growth in trips over 100 miles and in particular about the figures in the final sentence of paragraph 3.2.10 of the *Economic Case for HS2*.

The figures in the sentence in question are intended to relate only to long distance rail trips. Given that rail currently represents a small proportion of total long distance travel, this is not inconsistent with slower (or even non-existent) growth in overall long-distance travel. Regrettably, however, a drafting error has been identified in this sentence in relation to the 64% figure. The sentence should read: "Taking account of population growth we forecast the number of long distance rail trips to increase by 95% by 2043, representing an increase of 1.9% per year on average and reflecting slower growth than over the past 15 years." An erratum note will be added to the consultation website to this effect.

In terms of total long-distance travel, HS2 Ltd forecasts growth in trips per person of 36% between 2008 and 2043. As explained in the *Economic Case for HS2*, this has been derived using the Passenger Demand Forecasting Handbook for rail trips and DfT's air passenger demand modelling for aviation. For car journeys, which make up the largest element of overall long distance travel and for which HS2 Ltd estimate growth in trips per person of 26%, forecasts have been produced using DfT's TEMPRO 5.4 model.

The National Travel Survey consistently measures very small annual numbers of long distance journeys per person. Survey variability means that year-to-year changes in this measure are relatively erratic, and it is not necessarily possible to extrapolate a clear long term trend, particularly given the impact of the recession on demand for travel in the most recent years. The models used to derive HS2 Ltd's forecasts are based on data sources better suited for understanding long distance trip making behaviour across each mode, such as PDFH analysis of rail demand and CAA air data.

More detail regarding the TEMPRO is available on the DfT website at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/tempro/> and regarding the Department's air travel forecasting at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/>

In addition, you may wish to be aware that, in line with the Government's transparency agenda, HS2 Ltd has recently made available a number of additional background reports relating to the *Economic Case for HS2*, which are available on its website at: <http://www.hs2.org.uk/supporting-documents-temp>

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within 40 working days of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

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Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within 40 working days of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF