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Sent via email: [louise.haigh.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:louise.haigh.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Western Rail Link to Heathrow**

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Transport last week. We wish you well in your new position.

We know, and appreciate, your inbox will be very full. You will be prioritising your workload and focusing on the key projects that have impact, provide maximum economic return, meet levelling-up and carbon reduction ambitions and crucially can be delivered.

May we take this opportunity of highlighting one such project that meets all those requirements and has cross-Party support – the [Western Rail Link to Heathrow](#) (WRLtH) scheme.

Whilst the scheme is the construction of a 6.5km link, a tunnel, connecting the Great Western mainline east of Slough to Heathrow T5. Upon completion it will connect 20% of the UK population to within one interchange of the UK's only hub airport, give improved access to approx. 14 million people, deliver a carbon reduction project and significant economic benefits to a large area of the UK, including southern and south-west England, the Midlands, and Wales. See also the [‘case for WRLtH’](#).

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) has been leading the Accredited Chamber network's position in championing the timely delivery of the WRLtH. We have been working, very closely, with APPG Chair Tan Dhesi (cc'd) and welcomed his leadership in the [30<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 adjournment debate](#) in Parliament where he commented, *"I can commend the work of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce"*. Evidentially, the debate confirmed that WRLtH has *"strong, cross-Party consensus and 'all as one' (want) to get this project delivered."*

In his summary, Tan invited Government to *"stop obfuscating, and provide the people of my Slough constituency, the wider Thames valley region and beyond with a clear timeline for when we can expect the project to be finally set in action?"*

/In his [encouragingly concluding remarks](#), your predecessor, Huw Merriman's final comments he stated: *"I hope that the case can be made, funding from the private sector is found, and we can give positive news to him and all the other Members who have spoken in this debate, and who champion this project. I end by giving him another commitment. If he, the members of the all-party parliamentary group and the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce want to meet me, **we can set out a timeline for the decision and what needs to be done.** I can set out what is required from a private sector financing perspective, because I need to know that the money will be there if we are to do the work within Government."*

Subsequent discussion on finding an early date was paused when the election was called.

We trust your department colleagues have this 'action' on / near the top of your 'to-do' list.

We remain committed to helping deliver a business-led solution, alongside you, for the timely delivery of the WRLtH scheme. We are ready and welcome an early opportunity to meet you.

Our kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Britton**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group**

cc: Tan Dhesi, MP for Slough ([tan.dhesi.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tan.dhesi.mp@parliament.uk))