

The Rt. Hon Rachel Reeves MP  
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13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Delivered via email: [rachel.reeves.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rachel.reeves.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Rachel Reeves,

**Western Rail Link to Heathrow – a stimulus to growth, inward investment, connectivity, and carbon reduction**

We last wrote to you on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 on this matter and again, to the Secretary of State for Transport, on 8<sup>th</sup> July. In reply to this second letter, the Minister of State for Rail kindly replied indicating *“these are early days for the new Government, and we are considering our position on future rail investments in the context of our critic mission and the availability of public finances”*.

For the reasons we have previously outlined, we believe the WRLtH is an example of the very project that will **Kickstart economic growth** and one, through its timely delivery, that will **deliver improved prosperity for our country**.

Appreciating the fiscal challenges facing your inbox, we were nevertheless surprised to read reports concerning the [‘withdrawal’](#) and described further as being put on hold indefinitely or delayed for up to two years.

As you are aware Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce has been coordinating the, business-led, WRLtH working group, whose members include Great Western Railway, Heathrow and Network Rail. Subject to confirming final, private sector contributions, we are on the cusp of commissioning a refresh of the economic feasibility of the study, with the support of the Department for Transport. This study will include consideration of the financing options to fund, fully or in part, the scheme from private finance.

May we ask for your clarification on the Government’s stance on the WRLtH scheme, including your continued commitment to consider all options for its timely delivery and encouragement to proceed with the economic study. In so doing we will have a clear statement and understanding of our own priorities and future work programme.

Yours sincerely,



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