



Department
for Transport

Mr Mark Carne
Network Rail
1 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 2DN

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Claire Perry MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 020 7944 3084
Fax: 020 7944 4521
E-Mail: claire.perry@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Ref: SilentTrack

18 MAR 2015

As you will be aware the Secretary of State, in granting the Transport and Works Act Order to enable the East West Rail development, imposed a number of conditions. In accordance with the Government's commitment to localism, assurance that these conditions have been met fall to the local planning authority, which in this case is Oxford City Council.

I understand that Network Rail have been working to ensure that in due course, Oxford City Council will be in a position to robustly state that the planning conditions, including those relating to noise and vibration, have been met. I support this partnership working, albeit whilst maintaining an arm's length approach, and look forward to the route being opened on time.

However, a number of residents, particularly in the Waterways area of North Oxford, are very concerned that the mitigation measures set out by Network Rail are inadequate to protect them against noise and vibration on the route. At an East West Rail public meeting on Thursday 5th March 2015, which I attended as Rail Minister along with representatives from Network Rail, Oxford City Council and Chiltern Trains, the residents enquired about 'SilentTrack'. Network Rail representatives advised that this could not be used as a mitigation in the scheme of assessment as the track has not yet been given full approval by Network Rail.

Residents were enthusiastic that if the track did have full approval, it could make a big difference to the noise and vibration assessment results. While I appreciate that "Silent Track" may not necessarily be required to meet the conditions imposed by the Secretary of State, I would therefore be extremely

grateful if the certification process could be managed in a way that allowed the use of the technology, or if this site might be permitted as a test location.

I would like to ensure that the East West Rail scheme can proceed in a way which delivers the huge rail benefits we are expecting while as far as practical, minimising the disruption to nearby residents and would therefore welcome your support in progressing this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

CLAIRE PERRY

Cc: Nicola Blackwood MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA