



# Department for Transport

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Dear Sandra

I am writing to accept your invitation to appear at the scrutiny inquiry session on the 15th February as part of your inquiry into Transport for Leeds Supertram, NGT, and Beyond. I would also like to set out the parameters of the evidence I will be able to provide.

Firstly, as a civil servant, I will need to confine my evidence to questions of fact and explanation relating to government policies and actions in a way that is consistent with the principle of political impartiality as set out in the civil service code.

In the context of this inquiry that means that I am able to discuss and explain in factual terms certain aspects of the business case assessment and communications with the promoters and funding approvals concerning the scheme.

However I am not authorised to discuss specific advice to ministers, nor to comment on the merits of Ministerial decisions or possible alternative policy decisions. As a civil servant I represent the Government of the day and therefore I cannot comment in any way on the decisions of previous Ministers or Governments.

Secondly, I am not authorised to discuss anything whatsoever to do with the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). The TWAO decision letter issued on behalf of the Secretary of State forms the definitive legal statement of the reasons for the Secretary of State's decision. It would not be appropriate for any minister or official to attempt to add to or vary (even inadvertently) that definitive statement of reasons by providing additional explanation of the decision.

I look forward to seeing you on the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours sincerely

**Bob Collins**