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Our Ref: PINS/N4720/429/14

Date: 16 October 2023

Dear Mr Elliot

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT ON HS2 FUNDING DATED 4 OCTOBER 2023

1. On 4th October 2023 the Prime Minister announced that HS2 funding was to be redirected to other projects and confirmed that the Phase 2 line from Birmingham to Manchester will not be delivered. This may have implications for the employment sites in the Leeds area currently covered by the HS2 safeguarding direction.
2. As set out in my letter dated 25 May 2023 [EXR33], the issue of safeguarding direction sites coming forward in the plan period is a key factor influencing my conclusion about the existence or otherwise of exceptional circumstances in respect of proposed site allocation EG2-37. Accordingly, I am seeking the Council's view on the implications of the announcement and whether they still consider that exceptional circumstances exist to release site EG2-37 from the Green Belt, and if so on what basis.
3. I would be grateful if the Council could respond within 10 working days.

Yours sincerely

Louise Gibbons

INSPECTOR