



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Andrew Stephenson MP
Minister of State
Department for Transport
BY EMAIL

15th October 2020

Dear Andrew,

Please find attached a letter from Wendover Parish Council regarding the use of Transport and Works Act Orders on HS2. In previous correspondence, you have stated that the government will not permit the construction of a bored mined tunnel at Wendover because to do so would require opening the Act. However, I note from Baroness Vere's answer to Lord Berkeley that a TWAO was used at Bromford, Warwickshire to extend a tunnel there, removing the need for a viaduct. My constituents believe that this is the same situation as at Wendover, and therefore cannot understand why a mined tunnel has been refused for them when changes to the Approved Scheme as defined by the Act are effectively being made for Bromford.

Accordingly, I would be grateful for a response to the following:

- 1) Can a TWAO be used to allow a mined tunnel at Wendover?
- 2) If not, why not? And can your department please provide a detailed legal explanation to my constituent.

My constituents are both confused and frustrated by the information about Bromford, so I would be grateful if you and your officials could look into this as a matter of urgency.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Butler'.

ROB BUTLER

Member of Parliament for Aylesbury