



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

Ms Rebecca Roseff
Secretary
Rail for Herefordshire
PO Box 299
Hereford
HR1 2YE

Your ref:

Our ref: IAC 065/09

**Sustainable Futures
Directorate
5, St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW**

Direct Line: 0121 352 5469

Fax: 0121 352 5578

E mail:

mark.hudson@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

Date: 12th March 2009

Dear Ms Roseff

Thank you for your letter dated 27th February 2009 addressed to Ian Austin, the Regional Minister for the West Midlands. The Minister is unable to respond personally to all the correspondence he receives and so your letter has been passed to this office to reply.

I note your comments and in particular your concerns about the Hereford Outer Distributor Road (HODR) and your particular interest in the twin-tracking of the rail line between Hereford and Ledbury.

I assume that you are similarly notifying Hereford Council of the same issues who, as the locally elected authority, are promoting the HODR scheme and who should be given the opportunity to take account of alternative ideas and local concerns such as those you raise.

With regard the twin-tracking of the single track between Hereford-Ledbury to relieve congestion, I understand that your organisation has recently met with the Network Rail RUS team to discuss this issue. Just to clarify the position, the current view of the Department for Transport is that the doubling of the line is not required to deliver HLOS capacity or performance (for the period 2014-19) and therefore Network Rail have not proposed this for their Control Period 4 (2014-19). At this stage, unless demand significantly changes to warrant more frequent services on this route, it is unlikely to be a candidate for funding for the period 2014-19.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hudson