

## CROSSRAIL

### Weekly Parliamentary Monitoring – week ending 25 January 2008

#### Written Answer on HIPs

Yvette Cooper MP replied to Eric Pickles MP's question on underground construction works. The full correspondence is below:

Eric Pickles: *To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether (a) the authorised or (b) required elements of a home information pack will inform buyers of the potential impact of underground works, such as the new Crossrail development.*

Yvette Cooper: *Information on proposed railway or road schemes, which may involve underground works, forms part of the property search dealing with inquiries made of local authorities. This search is a required element of the home information pack.*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080121/text/80121w0009.htm#08012132000029>

#### Written Answer on Rail Overcrowding

In reply to Edward Leigh MP's question on measures to tackle rail overcrowding on routes other than the west coast main line, Tom Harris MP stated:

*"The July 2007 rail White Paper committed the Government to spend £15 billion on their railway between 2009 and 2014. £10 billion of that is specifically devoted to measures to increase capacity. These include 1,300 extra carriages, £5.5 billion for Thameslink and £600 million for improvements at Birmingham New Street and Reading. We have also recently announced a funding package for Crossrail."*

[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080122/text/80122w0007.htm#qn\\_61](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080122/text/80122w0007.htm#qn_61)

#### Welsh Assembly Plenary

During the debate on lottery funding, Alun Cairns AM raised the 'double whammy' on Wales, losing out to London on Olympic funding and infrastructure funding. He said: *"Why does the UK Government not follow the convention set by the previous Conservative Government, namely that, when money is spent on London-only projects such as extending the Jubilee line on the underground, Wales also gets a share?"*

The First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM, responded: *"The same will be true of Crossrail, so when it is clearly a transport project, it is Barnettised. However, I am not trying to defend the UK Government. We have a dispute with it over what is and is not Barnettisable from the Olympic expenditure."*

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=71551&ds=1/2008>

### **Debate: Railways Capacity**

Lord Bradshaw introduced a short debate in the Lords asking Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to deal with overcrowding and capacity on railway services. There were a number of mentions of Crossrail.

Lord Rosser stated: *"Crossrail will add significantly to London's total public transport system, but it is to be nearly another decade before services start to operate, and that is assuming that the plans run to time."*

Lord Berkeley added: *"One can probably put 30 years on both the Channel Tunnel rail link and Crossrail projects from the first definitive statement by Government that they would like them to when they actually happen. I am not saying who is to blame or why. I hope that the Planning Bill will help because it does take a long time."*

Earl of Mar and Kellie said: *"Certainly, slowly, capacity is being constructed, but we have to talk about the middle distance and well into the future. Crossrail will help. High Speed 1 is already helping and perhaps, by 2010, when some Kent commuters are able to use the High Speed 1 domestic services, it will be even more of a help. However, High Speed 2, to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds from London Heathrow, is still in its infancy or perhaps at an even earlier stage."*

Lord Bassam concluded the proceedings, stating: *"The Government are spending £5.5 million to increase capacity by some 50 per cent on the Thameslink service, which, as we all know, is used by millions of people every year. Then-and I am particularly proud of this-there is the go-ahead for Crossrail, the culmination of a momentous year for British railways, with £16 billion of funding from Government and business. That project, as I am sure all will acknowledge, is of tremendous importance."*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80124-gc0001.htm#08012454000002>