

Today the Secretary of State for Transport has announced the launch of two HS2 consultations for the section of the route from Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds, which is known as Phase 2b. These consultations are on:

- The [working draft Environmental Statement](#) that describes the potential environmental effects of building and operating Phase 2b of HS2; as well as proposed ways to avoid, reduce, mitigate and monitor the effects. Community Area 16 which covers the East Leeds and North Yorkshire parts of the route is https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/745196/HS2_Phase_2b_WDES_Volume_2_LA16_Garforth_and_Church_Fenton.pdf
- The [working draft Equality Impact Assessment Report](#) that considers the potential effects of the construction and operation of HS2 Phase 2b on people with protected characteristics.

Both consultations will close at 23:45 on 21 December 2018.

We invite you to take part in these consultations. Feedback will be considered as we further develop our proposals. An Environmental Statement and Equality Impact Assessment Report will then be submitted to Parliament alongside the hybrid Bill in mid-2020.

To support these consultations, we are holding a series of information events from late October to early December 2018. The events will be attended by a range of specialists from HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport to guide people through the consultation documents. In addition, reference copies of the consultation documents are available at a number of locations during the consultation period. A full list of the events and information points is available at www.hs2.org.uk/phase2b.

We have also produced a series of videos to introduce and explain the consultations. These are available via the website along with a new interactive tool that has been designed to help people find the information in the working draft Environmental Statement most relevant to them.

If you have any questions, please contact our **Helpdesk** on **08081 434 434** or email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, or of course get back to me. We'll be happy to come and discuss with the council and we have an event in Kirk Fenton school during the consultation period. For further information on the consultations please visit our website www.hs2.org.uk/phase2b.

To access the consultation documents directly and for details of how to respond to the consultations, please use the following links.

- Working draft Environmental Statement:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-working-draft-environmental-statement>
- Working draft Equality Impact Assessment Report:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-working-draft-equality-impact-assessment-report>