



Department
for Transport

Oliver Coppard
Mayor of South Yorkshire
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield
S1 2BQ

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Oliver,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December about Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

It is frustrating to see your letter has found its way to the press and was used as the basis for inaccurate political adverts before I have had an opportunity to reply. This will cause some to question whether your priority here is doing what's best for your area, or scoring political points. Given the significant effort of Members of Parliament in particular in raising the importance of this issue, I am, nonetheless, responding as positively as possible.

As you will be aware, the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) 1 was awarded against criteria that applied to all bids, which specified, among other factors, that the funding was for local transport, and needed to contribute to cutting carbon emissions. Significant changes to CRSTS delivery plans require approval by both my department and HM Treasury – and as you are no doubt aware, you would have to demonstrate how any new scheme meets the CRSTS objectives, is deliverable within the CRSTS timeframe and not result in a negative impact on the overall programme VfM. Any application you make will be carefully considered.

More positively the Government is supporting South Yorkshire through Gainshare funding, making £900m available through £30m funding per year over 30 years. This is exactly the funding which the Mayor of Teesside used to support Teesside Airport and is consequently very likely to be suitable for your needs.

I am sure we can both agree that it is excellent news that there is clear Government grant available that you can choose to use to support Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT