

Great British Public is right to fear HS2

Dear Sir,

Nicholas Faith claims the Great British Public are against HS2 is because they are against public investment in railways. This could not be further from the truth.

They have much better reasons to oppose it. Not least is the obscene amount of money it will cost to build but they are also wary of the fact it has no business case, it will not improve our north-south divide or contribute to a greener economy.

One thing that the Great British Public – or at least the growing number of people that are opposed to HS2 – is not is anti-railway. This is why we have conducted detailed research into how investment in Britain's railways could benefit more people, sooner, much more affordably, than HS2.

A popular tactic among those that support HS2 is to portray its detractors as nimbys or luddites but the HS2 campaign draws its support from across the political spectrum. Ours is a positive campaign: positive because we want better railways, positive because we honestly believe the £33 billion it will cost to build could be better spent.

In this parliament alone the government will spend £800 million on HS2: that's the equivalent of 19,000 police officers. It's time for the government to admit it's a fair cop and give up this white elephant before it does any real damage.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Marshall

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