

The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

08 August 2002

Dear Secretary of State

**RE: LONDON TO SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES MULTI MODEL STUDY
(SWARMMS)**

The Regional Assembly as Regional Planning Body for South East England has considered the recommendations of SWARMMS. At its Plenary session held on 17 July 2002, it was agreed the Regional Assembly should recommend that:

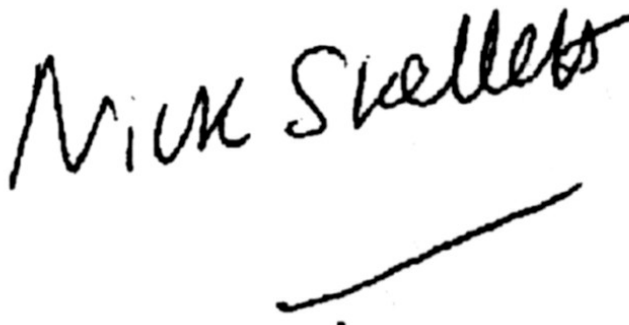
1. The principle of two high quality transport corridors between South East England and the South West is supported.
2. The Great Western main line and M4 corridors are of European significance and should continue to be promoted as such as part of the forthcoming Trans-European Transport Network (TEN) review.
3. The pattern of service on an enhanced Great Western main line should be designed within the context of a clear vision for the future role of that rail corridor, which the South East England Regional Assembly wishes to help develop.
4. Additional resources are now made available to the Strategic Rail Authority that will enable infrastructure improvements to the Great Western main line to be pursued as a high priority.
5. A final decision on the balance of the specific measures put forward to develop the A303/M3/Salisbury to Waterloo corridor should be conditional upon the implications of any strategic re-routing of movements being properly taken into consideration following completion of the Thames Valley Multi-Modal Study (TVMMS).

6. An urgent review should be undertaken of the policy and legislative framework within which the coach and express bus network operates.
7. Within that part of the SWARMMS study area in South East England the output from TVMMS, ORBIT and other relevant studies be used to inform the development and refinement of the proposed measures identified in the SWARMMS preferred strategy.

If there is any aspect of these recommendations on which you require further clarification the Regional Assembly's Secretariat would be pleased to assist your officials.

As you will be aware the Regional Assembly is in the process of revising the Regional Transport Strategy for the region. In preparing this document for submission we will take into consideration the outcome of this and other multi modal studies as appropriate. It is our intention to submit the revised Regional Transport Strategy for your consideration at the turn of the year and accordingly an early response to the outcome of this study would assist in finalising some detailed aspects of that submission.

Yours Sincerely



Nick Skellett
Chair of the Assembly

copied to:	Chris Mitchell	South West Regional Assembly
	Catherine Mullins	Welsh Assembly Government
	David Cooper	GOSE
	Richard Bayly	GOSW
	Jim Steer	Strategic Rail Authority
	Jim Boud	Highways Agency