



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

All Members of Parliament

12 December 2017

Dear colleague,

I am writing following publication of the National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline 2017, which was published by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) on Wednesday 6 December.

This report included a regional breakdown, on a per-head basis, of the planned central government spending on transport infrastructure over the 4 years from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

These figures show that the planned spending per head figure is within 33% of the national average for all nine English regions. Moreover, the overall figure for the three Northern regions (North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humber) is £1,039 per head, compared to £1,076 per head for the Middle regions (East of England, East Midlands and West Midlands) and £1,029 per head for the Southern regions (London, South East and South West).

There is, rightly, a great deal of interest in the regional distribution of government spending on transport infrastructure. However, in recent months the public debate on this important issue has been unduly influenced by misleading unofficial analyses, which purport to show very large discrepancies in planned spending per head between one region and another.

There will always be some variation between regions in the government's spending per head on transport infrastructure, particularly over a relatively short period in question, given the regions' differing geographies and requirements. But this week's figures from the IPA shows that the variability is a great deal less than others have claimed.

I hope this analysis helps to set the record straight, and underscores the government's commitment to long-term investment in infrastructure in all areas of the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Grayling", with a large, stylized flourish below the name.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT