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## **NEWS STORY**

**HS2 will get green light from government - but Boris Johnson demands cost is cut.**

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/breaking-hs2-high-speed-rail-21471693>

## **HALF A HS2**

KIRI: This week the Prime Minister gave the go ahead for the HS2 but after a massive overspend on pre-packed sandwiches, engineers are being forced to cut costs.

## **FX : OFFICE BACKGROUND NOISE**

WOMAN: I know I should be pleased that we've been given the green light but how the hell are we going to reduce the budget?

MAN: Well, I've been doing the sums and I think I've found a way to half it.

WOMAN: Half it? That's amazing. How?

MAN: We only go one way.

WOMAN: What do you mean?

MAN: **To** London **from** The North.

WOMAN: How would that help?

MAN: Half the materials, half the time, and who wants to go to the North anyway?

WOMAN: The people who live there?

MAN: But think about our actual objectives here. To enable high growth businesses and stimulate the economy. Where's that going to happen? (INCREDULOUSLY) Manchester?

WOMAN: Won't we piss a lot of people off?

MAN: Not if we don't tell them.

WOMAN: Surely, they'll find out when they get to London?

MAN: It won't matter then. They'll have had their meetings and served their purpose. It's not like we're stopping them from getting home – they can use the slow trains like everybody else. Do we really care what time a bunch of Brummies get home for their dinner?

WOMAN: I suppose not... so half the cost...

MAN: And half the disruption.

WOMAN: Even better. The PM's going to love this. He can use the money we save to build that bridge to Northern Ireland.

MAN: (COUGHS)

WOMAN: Of course, **from** Northern Ireland.

**END**