



National Audit Office

The National Audit Office's value for money assessment of transport investments

A presentation by Geraldine Barker

15th September 2014

Introduction



- The Role of the National Audit Office
- Our Value for money work in transport covers a range of activities:
 - Procurements;
 - Operational activities
 - Other interventions (termination of contracts)
 - Investment in infrastructure



National Audit Office

Our examinations of investment in transport infrastructure

- Recent years focus on rail
- Examination at key stages:
 - Investment decision;
 - Before construction begins;
 - Key stages in construction;
 - When line becomes operational.

High Speed One

- Examined
 - Delivery to time and budget;
 - Whether the line was achieving original objectives;
 - Whether the Department had achieved value for money in the sale of the line.
- Both of the first two were difficult because of availability of information

Measuring wider economic impacts



National Audit Office

- Cited as the reason for major projects such as High Speed rail
- But little quantitative evidence
- Increasing interest and debate within UK
 - Debate around High Speed 2
 - Prioritisation between projects
 - Are all benefits and costs captured?
 - Public Accounts Committee

Ex post assessments

- Is there a greater appetite for conducting them?
- Are the tools and techniques available to satisfy the interest of the taxpayer and those who hold departments to account?