

[WATCH: May – “This is a historic moment, from which there can be no turning back”](#)

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[There seems to have been a revolving door between CH2M and HS2 which must be investigated – Andy McDonald](#)

Andy

McDonald, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on reports that engineering firm CH2M has pulled out of a deal to provide rail lines for phase 2b of HS2, said:

"It's remarkable the Department of Transport failed to do proper due diligence on this multi-million pound bid.

"How could ministers not realise giving CH2M a £170m contract when HS2'S new chief executive and his predecessor both worked for the firm was a massive conflict of interest?

"There seems to have been a revolving door between CH2M and HS2 which must be investigated. This is just as big a mess as the Department of Transport's mishandling of the West Coast franchise bid.

"Chris Grayling must come to the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity to explain how this bidding process was allowed to derail. They chose to bury the bad news on Article 50 day. There must now be an inquiry into the serious errors surrounding this bid and the Government must get the construction of HS2, which Labour supports, back on track."

[Gorton by-election is a chance for Manchester to say no to a hard Brexit](#)

As the Prime Minister triggered Article 50, the Liberal Democrats have emphasised that it is still possible for people to stop a Hard Brexit and that the by-election in Manchester Gorton will be a chance to force Labour and the Government to "change course."

Lib Dem membership reaches 87,000 as Article 50 is triggered

The Liberal Democrats have seen their membership surge to 87,000 on the same day Article 50 is triggered.