

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for Britain's rail network

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25th March 2025

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Catherine Atkinson MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail
- 9.05 **The changing landscape and key considerations for the future of Britain's rail network**
Professor Paul Plummer, Director, Centre for Rail Research and Education, University of Birmingham; and Lead, UK Rail Research and Innovation Network
- 9.15 **Regulatory priorities for the rail industry moving forward - maintaining standards and ensuring fair access across the industry**
John Larkinson, Chief Executive, Office of Rail and Road
- 9.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **The Rail Reform Bill - navigating a period of transition within the rail industry**
examining latest legislative proposals | fostering collective responsibility | building a new culture within the rail sector | achieving a smooth transition to a unified arm's length body | priorities for a new passenger watchdog | mix of public and private sector TOCs | workforce
Rob Mullen, Managing Director, c2c Rail
Simon Weller, Assistant General Secretary, ASLEF
Robert Cook, Policy Director, Railway Industry Association
Tammy Samuel, Partner and Co-Head, Rail, SH Legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Next steps for establishing Great British Railways and key priorities moving forward**
Paul Harwood, Programme Director, Partners and Place, Great British Railways Transition Team
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Catherine Atkinson MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Olly Glover MP, Member, Transport Select Committee
- 11.15 **'Making best use of the Network'**
Peter Lovitt, Head, Track, Access and Charging Reform, Department for Transport
- 11.25 **Freight, open access and the future shape of Britain's rail industry**
safeguarding accountability | GBR's relationship with the Government | sector relationships and protecting the interests of stakeholders across the industry | supporting and growing rail freight | the future of open access | timetabling, capacity and ensuring fair access to operators outside of GBR | the future role of the private sector in the railway
Martijn Gilbert, Managing Director, First Rail Open Access (Lumo and Hull), First Group
Andrea Rossi, Chief Executive, DB Cargo
Rob Catherall, Head, Bus and Rail, Oxera
Fiona Lewins, Director, Commercial Contracts, Transport for Wales
- 11.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 **Priorities for future standards and performance in passenger services and operations**
ticketing reform | impact on performance and reliability | costs of fares | operating a nationalised passenger railway
David Flesher, Commercial Director, LNER
Ben Curtis, Head, External Affairs, Campaign for Better Transport
Martin Sheehan, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Trainline
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.50 **Policy priorities for Britain's rail network moving forward**
Lucy Ryan, Director, Rail Reform, Department for Transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Olly Glover MP, Member, Transport Select Committee
Tess Mitchell-Thomas, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum