

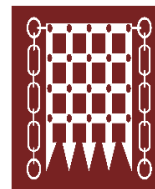
Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for Britain's rail network

Timing: Morning, Friday, 22nd January 2027

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Next steps for regulatory reform, accountability and oversight in a changing railway**
Feras Alshaker, Interim Chief Executive, Office of Rail and Road
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Examining rail reform implementation in practice - establishing Great British Railways and the transition to public ownership**
the Railways Bill and establishing GBR | measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of reform | early lessons from the transition to public ownership | implications for service quality, affordability, reliability and consumer experience | governance, accountability and the respective responsibilities of government, GBR and regulators | passenger voice, scrutiny and redress under the new arrangements | priorities for the Long-Term Rail Strategy and its interaction with business planning and funding priorities | collaboration between GBR, government, operators and key stakeholders | the role of devolved governments and mayoral strategic authorities
Senior representative, train operator
Senior representative, passengers
Senior representative, devolved transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Effective use of the network - competition, access, freight and retail**
assessing future capacity requirements | the mix of passenger and freight services | affordability, value for money and long-term funding priorities | the role of rail in supporting regional connectivity and economic growth | access and use arrangements and criteria for allocating constrained capacity | independent appeal and ORR's future role in access and charging decisions | the future place of open access services | implications of the new rail freight growth target for capacity and investment | fares reform, retail markets and future passenger expectations | maintaining fair competition where GBR also has retail responsibilities
Senior representative, freight
Senior representative, open access operator
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, train operator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.25 **Insights from TransPennine Route Upgrade - progress, challenges and priorities for major infrastructure delivery**
Senior speaker confirmed from **TransPennine Route Upgrade**
- 11.35 **Delivering major rail projects - investment, infrastructure, rolling stock, innovation and supply chains**
progress on major projects, including the TransPennine Route Upgrade, East West Rail, Midlands Rail Hub, HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail | investment and funding priorities | pipeline visibility, sequencing and delivery confidence | implementation of the Rolling Stock and Infrastructure Strategy | fleet renewal, procurement and financing | coordinating rolling stock with infrastructure, electrification, signalling, depots and maintenance | maintenance and renewal of ageing assets | resilience to extreme weather and climate impacts | skills and workforce requirements across infrastructure projects, electrification and digital railway technologies | supply chain resilience and confidence to invest in capability | digital railway technologies, innovation and network modernisation | aligning investment decisions with net zero objectives
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, innovation
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for Britain's railway - priorities for reform and renewal**
Richard Goodman, Director General, Rail Reform and Strategy, Department for Transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum