

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for Britain's rail network

Timing: Morning, Friday, 24th October 2025

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Julia Buckley MP
- 9.05 **Policy, planning, and investment priorities for Britain's rail network moving forward**
Professor Paul Plummer, Centre for Railway Research and Education, University of Birmingham; and Lead, UK Rail Research and Innovation Network
- 9.15 **Maintaining passenger confidence during transition**
Alex Campbell, Director, Policy and Insight, Transport Focus
- 9.25 **Assessing the Railways Bill and priorities for passenger services - implementing policy and the role of Great British Railways**
maintaining and improving the passenger experience, including timetabling, ticketing and fare reforms | roles and responsibilities of the public and private sectors, and devolved rail operators | governance design and integration of existing bodies | statutory roles for devolved authorities | lessons from first franchises transferred into public ownership | safeguards for open-access operators and the future of competition | priorities and remit for a new passenger watchdog
Senior speaker confirmed from **Worldline**
Senior representative, rail franchise
Senior representative, devolved transport
Senior representative, legal
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Key considerations for the future regulatory landscape**
John Larkinson, CEO, Office of Rail and Road
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Julia Buckley MP
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **CP7 Reset and performance**
Will Godfrey, Director, Economics, Finance and Markets, Office of Rail and Road
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Developing greener railways - decarbonisation, renewable energy integration, and maximising social value**
Leo Murray, CEO, Riding Sunbeams
- 11.35 **Funding, infrastructure rollout and delivery, and the future of the rail workforce**
delivery capacity for achieving national priorities | management of timelines, resources, and supplier readiness across multiple infrastructure programmes | progress on decarbonisation, electrification, and digitalisation | visibility and consistency in project planning | cross-border management | recent investment and implications for capacity to plan and deliver improvements | strategies and frameworks for joined-up support | modernising and diversifying sector recruitment and strategies to improve workforce planning, retention, and inclusion | criteria and funding for climate resilience of rail infrastructure
Dr Alasdair MacDonald, Operations Director, Balfour Beatty
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, rail operator
Senior representative, skills
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **The Railways Bill and the structure and governance of GBR - implications for regulation and operators**
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Department for Transport**
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum