Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
Next steps for Britain's rail network
Timing: Morning, Friday, 22nd January 2027
*****Taking place online*****

WESTMINSTER ENERGY ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Collette Stevenson MSP, Member, Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament

9.05 **Next steps for rail 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
Lewis Johnston, Deputy Director, External Affairs, Transport Focus
Tricia Williams, Managing Director, Northern Trains
Tom Painter, Executive Director, West Midlands Rail Executive; and Director, Rail, Transport for West Midlands
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
David Moore, Partner, CMS
Senior representative, freight
Senior representative, open access operator
Senior representative, train operator
Questions and comments from the floor

11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Collette Stevenson MSP, Member, Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament

11.10 Break

11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Berkeley, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail

11.25 **Insights from TransPennine Route Upgrade - progress, challenges and priorities for major infrastructure delivery**
James Richardson, Managing Director, 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
Neil Robertson, CEO, National Skills Academy for Rail
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, investment
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**
Lord Berkeley, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum