

Chief Executive's Office

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Permanent Secretary
Department for Transport
4th Floor, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Date:
10 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope all is well with you and look forward to meeting up soon as I understand our teams are engaged in trying to arrange a joint leadership event in Edinburgh.

On the more immediate issue of the recent announcement by the UK Transport Secretary about the review of UK railways, an issue which you know we have a keen interest in, I'd like to share our view.

In July 2017, through the High Level Output Specification, the Scottish Ministers reiterated their clear vision for how Scotland's rail industry can make a major contribution towards inclusive, economic growth. To achieve this, we must have a rail industry that is fully aligned with Scottish Government priorities.

Although we have delivered many significant successes on Scotland's railways, there have been a number of challenges, particularly in recent years. Our firm belief that better services and greater value for money can be secured leads us to share many of the concerns that has prompted this latest rail review. In particular, the need for greater empowerment, integration and accountability on the Scottish route.

There have been conversations at Ministerial and official level about the review, and I welcome the assurances given that Scottish interests will be fully represented. I believe that this can be best achieved through the following:

- Scottish representation on the proposed expert panel. In this context, I would suggest Bill Reeve, Rail Director at Transport Scotland, who has a wealth of wider railway expertise as well as an in-depth knowledge of devolved railway matters.
- A working group be established at official level, which would have a specific role to consider any matters within the review which had an impact on the Devolved Administrations. This would include DfT, Transport Scotland and the Welsh Assembly Government.



It is very much in our shared interests to make sure that the rail review is a success and I hope these suggestions are considered in that light. My Rail team look forward to working with DfT colleagues on this and other railway matters over the coming months.

Happy to discuss any of the above by telephone if that would be helpful.

Yours



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2019 09:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] call with [REDACTED] Director of Rail, Transport Scotland, 14-Jan

Thanks [REDACTED] Your note is really helpful.

I certainly feel more assured after our discussion last week that we will be able to feed in across the full breadth of the review. We certainly have a lot to offer.

Speak later.

[REDACTED]
Head of Rail Policy
Transport Scotland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2019 09:20
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] call with [REDACTED] Director of Rail, Transport Scotland, 14-Jan

Hi [REDACTED]

I thought I'd pass on my note of the call between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] this morning.

Aside from the content, which was helpful, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I wanted to reiterate this really is not the case, and I thought we covered some really useful ground on the role of the ORR and NR in general last week. From our side we are very interested in your experience of alliancing and how integration of track and train could go further as well as the franchise model in general. It was a shame we didn't have time to go through those topics last week but if you have thoughts or position papers on these please do send them through to me and I am more than happy to set up further conversations with the individuals working on alignment or the commercial model to go into more detail.

My role is as much to understand what DAs, and regional and local bodies think about the railway in general as it is to work on devolution policy.

I'll be in touch later today with the cast list for Thursday but any questions do let me know.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Devolution and Regions Lead, Williams Rail Review, Department for Transport

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2019 09:00
To: _Rail Review List [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] call with [REDACTED] Director of Rail, Transport Scotland, 14-Jan

Hi all,

[REDACTED] had a call with [REDACTED] the Director of Rail for the Scottish Government, this morning in advance of the planned trip to Scotland on Thursday.

[REDACTED] – note they agreed to meet to discuss further following the visit on Thursday.

Participants

[REDACTED] Transport Scotland
[REDACTED] Williams Rail Review

Discussion

- Railways in Scotland were devolved in 2005, including franchising in Scotland and specifying of Network Rail. All within the UK industry structure with no choice over existence and structure of NR or franchises.
- **Devolution.** Scottish Government believe devolution has worked with better performance, better satisfaction, and better management of projects. Steady progress in developing the railway they want. Scottish Ministers would like to see further devolution – both management and political devolution.