



# Department for Transport

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

E-Mail: [permanent.secretaries@dft.gov.uk](mailto:permanent.secretaries@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

07 May 2024

## From the Permanent Secretary

### Dame Meg Hillier

Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

[Sent via email]

Dear Dame Meg,

### Rail reform: The rail transformation programme - Oral evidence

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee about the role of the Department in the Rail transformation Programme alongside my departmental colleagues Conrad Bailey (Director General), Anit Chandarana (former Director General) and Andrew Haines who was representing Network Rail.

I am writing to the Committee to clarify the last meetings that Ministers and officials have held with members of Trade Unions.

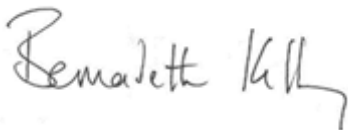
The following table details the two meetings that the Rail Minister is due to have with the General Secretary of National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) and Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) in May and past meetings with RMT, ASLEF, Unite and Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA). In these meetings the Ministers were supported by senior officials.

Date	Which Trade Union(s)	Which Minister	Subject Matter
20 May 2024*	RMT	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Update on local reform negotiations
13 May 2024*	ASLEF	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Following the General Secretaries letter of 14 March 2024 to the Department
7 Feb 2023	Unite	Rail Minister- Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives to facilitate discussions and receive the latest updates on negotiations
26 Jan 2023	ASLEF	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Discussion on industrial action
25 Jan 2023	RMT	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives and industry employers to facilitate discussions on workforce reform

9 Jan 2023	ASLEF	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives and industry employers to facilitate discussions on workforce reform
9 Jan 2023	RMT	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting RMT and Rail Minister, Network Rail and RDG - Discussion on Industrial Action
15 Dec 2022	RMT	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives and industry employers to facilitate discussions on workforce reform
12 Dec 2022	TSSA	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives and industry employers to facilitate discussions on workforce reform
6 Dec 2022	ASLEF	Transport Secretary – Mark Harper	An introductory discussion to discuss ongoing industrial action
2 Dec 2022	RMT	Rail Minister – Huw Merriman	Meeting with trade union representatives and industry employers to facilitate discussions on workforce reform
24 Nov 2022	RMT	Transport Secretary – Mark Harper	An introductory discussion to discuss ongoing industrial action
24 Nov 2022	TSSA	Transport Secretary – Mark Harper	An introductory discussion to discuss ongoing industrial action

More broadly beyond rail reform, officials routinely meet with Trade Union representatives as they do with other stakeholders. This includes meetings on train driver licensing and as part of the consultation on the Minimum Service Levels regulations.

Yours sincerely,



**Dame Bernadette Kelly DCB  
Permanent Secretary**