



Department
for Transport

From the Minister for Rail
Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE

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Ruth Cadbury MP
Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

CC: Laura Shoaf
Chair of Shadow GBR

6 February 2025

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for your time on Wednesday 22nd January to discuss Shadow Great British Railways; it is always a pleasure to appear before your committee.

As promised, I wanted to write to set out why it is not currently possible to recruit today to senior roles for the proposed body Great British Railways.

As is the established convention agreed with Parliament, appointments to new public sector bodies being set up under legislation should wait until the legislation has received Royal Assent. Although 'shadow' teams or arrangements may be established to prepare for the creation of new public sector bodies, appointments may only be made in exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of HM Treasury, after the bill to establish that public body passes Second Reading in the Commons.

With this in mind, the appointment of Laura Shoaf as Shadow GBR Chair is an unpaid appointment to the department, and the position of GBR Chair will be recruited for separately in a wide and open search process. Whilst respecting Parliamentary process and reflecting Parliament's views on the role of GBR, DfT will, alongside the passage of the Bill, assess the required skills and capabilities and manage recruitment processes to ensure effective leadership of GBR from day one.

Please do not hesitate to get into contact if you or the committee have any further questions on Shadow Great British Railways.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patricia', followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

The Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL