



Transport Committee

Rt Hon Sir Alan Campbell MP
Leader of the House of Commons

By email

28 October 2025

Dear Sir Alan,

Scrutiny of the Rail Reform Bill

The Transport Committee, alongside the whole rail sector, is keenly anticipating the introduction of the Government's Rail Reform Bill.

We appreciate the urgency of bringing forward these measures. Reform and the advent of a single 'directing mind' for the railway have been awaited since the Plan for Rail was published in 2021, with the Transport Committee conducting pre-legislative scrutiny of the previous Government's version of the necessary legislation in the spring of 2024. We note that the Secretary of State for Transport has said Great British Railways is likely to be formally established in 2027, and that any further delay is not in the interests of passengers or the industry.

We trust, however, that the Government's lengthy preparations for this legislation – which was announced in the King's Speech in July 2024 – have included ensuring that the timetable for its passage in the House will allow for sufficient parliamentary scrutiny.

Notwithstanding the important role that a Public Bill Committee will play in scrutinising the Bill, we consider that the expertise of the Transport Committee will make a vital contribution to the House's understanding of the legislation and how it could be strengthened.

I would therefore be grateful for assurances that the time between stages of the Bill's passage in the Commons will be sufficient to enable the Transport Committee to take oral evidence on the principle and detail of the proposals, and to reach a view based on that evidence which can be communicated to our colleagues through a report to the House, in order to inform as much of the debate on the Bill's passage as possible. It would assist our work greatly if the expected timetable could be shared with us, in confidence if necessary.

I am sure the Government will be eager for this landmark legislation to receive high quality scrutiny in both Houses to ensure that Great British Railways is established on a firm foundation to deliver a transformed railway for passengers.



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I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Transport. It is also copied to the Chair of the Liaison Committee, as we are aware the Chair has received representations from other committees in the current Parliament about the time allowed for departmental select committees to engage with legislation. We note the recommendation of the Education Committee in its [report](#) on Scrutiny of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill on this matter, albeit in different circumstances.

Our Committee looks forward to constructive engagement with the Department for Transport as we scrutinise the forthcoming Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Cadbury MP
Chair, Transport Committee

cc Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Transport
cc Dame Meg Hillier MP, Chair, Liaison Committee