



Department for Transport

From the Secretary of State
Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

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

26 March 2026

Dear Ruth,

I am writing to inform you that yesterday I published a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Welsh Ministers, addressing the delivery of the railway in Wales through Great British Railways (GBR) and during the transition towards GBR. Alongside the MoU with Welsh Ministers, I also published a Framework for an MoU with Scottish Ministers. Publishing these documents should align with the Transport Select Committee's request to see documents required in the Bill alongside its passage, which I am mindful also formed part of your recent report to which the Government will be responding. These documents are now available to read on the Gov.uk website.

This work has been carried out to deliver against a requirement within the Railways Bill to prepare and publish two Memoranda of Understanding between myself as Secretary of State and with Welsh and Scottish Ministers, respectively. The difference in substance of the Memoranda reflects the different devolution settlements for rail of the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

The Welsh Ministers and I have agreed to sign a finalised MoU to enable Transport for Wales and Network Rail to prepare for future partnering arrangements between Transport for Wales and GBR. The MoU with Welsh Ministers reflects the strong and constructive collaboration that has taken place between the UK Government, the Welsh Government, Network Rail, and Transport for Wales (TfW). Our officials and delivery bodies have worked closely and positively throughout its development, underpinned by a strong relationship between UK and Welsh Ministers.

The MoU sets out a commitment that the Secretary of State for Transport and Welsh Ministers will set shared objectives for the Wales and Borders area. The MoU sets a clear framework for how governments will collaborate in the delivery of the shared objectives through a more integrated, user-focused railway, with transparent roles, responsibilities and governance. It empowers joint working between TfW and GBR, supports empowered local decision making, and provides a platform for more coherent system planning and improved outcomes for rail users.

The future organisational structure of the railway in Scotland, particularly whether infrastructure and train operations will be integrated or remain separate, is still in development. As a result, we have agreed to publish a Framework for the MoU to set a direction of travel while leaving scope to revisit its contents once the future structure of the industry in Scotland is clear. Officials in DfT and Transport Scotland are meeting regularly and working constructively on the development of the design work.

The Framework for the MoU with Scottish Ministers reflects the positive and constructive engagement that has taken place between our governments and outlines how we intend to work together as we take forward rail reform in Scotland. It reflects the joint commitment to ensure that the benefits of rail reform are realised in Scotland as in England and Wales while respecting devolved responsibilities.

The UK and Scottish Governments will continue to work together to finalise the MoU for publication around Royal Assent. This ongoing collaboration will ensure that the governance, accountability and delivery arrangements for rail reform in Scotland are robust, workable, and aligned with the needs of rail users and communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Alexander', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT