



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

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

14 May 2026

Dear Ruth,

I am writing to share the Department for Transport's legislative agenda for the second Parliamentary session, as set out in the King's Speech.

Firstly, we will be carrying over the Railways Bill. This bill will seek to address the neglect that our railways have suffered by delivering on the Government's manifesto commitment to establish Great British Railways (GBR) and provide new leadership, accountability, and passenger focus to a sector that has been in desperate need of it.

We will also be re-introducing the High-Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill, to help deliver faster, more reliable and more frequent services between the North of England's key cities. This Bill will obtain the necessary powers to deliver the section of Northern Powerhouse Rail from Millington into Manchester Piccadilly via Manchester Airport.

We intend to bring forward amendments to make the extent of the Bill clearer in both the Long and Short titles of the Bill. These changes, if accepted, would only have effect after the Select Committee process.

The department will also be introducing two new pieces of legislation in the next session.

Our Civil Aviation Bill will support our world-leading aviation sector to continue thriving for decades to come. The bill will strengthen consumer rights and protections, promote economic growth and infrastructure provision, and enhance aviation safety, ensuring that the UK retains its appeal as a competitive aviation hub.

Furthermore, our Highways (Financing) Bill will enable a new financing approach to fund large-scale road schemes, supporting the UK Government's commitment to deliver a modern transport network that helps people get where they need more easily and safely.

In addition to these pieces of legislation, we will also be laying the draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. The draft bill will modernise taxi and private hire law for the way people travel today, delivering services people can trust.

I am sure you will agree that this ambitious agenda sets us on a clear path towards continuing to deliver on the Government's priorities as the British people would expect. I look forward to discussing the Department's work with you more broadly in the coming weeks and months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should the Committee require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Alexander', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT