



Department
for Transport

Ruth Cadbury MP
Chair, Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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From the Secretary of State
Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

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18 February 2025

LAUNCH OF CONSULTATION ON LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT RAIL SECTOR TRANSFORMATION

Dear Ruth,

I am writing to inform you that today my Department has published its consultation on Legislation to Implement Rail Sector Transformation.

Our country needs an efficient, modern railway that kickstarts growth and realises the untapped potential of our towns, cities, and businesses. An affordable, reliable railway brings new markets and job opportunities closer to those who stand ready to make the most of them. It makes education, healthcare, public services, and even just the support of family and friends more accessible to those who need it. A railway that offers a genuine alternative to road travel, combined with a thriving rail freight sector, means cleaner air and less congestion for everyone.

As you are aware, this government is delivering our Plan for Change with investment and reform to drive growth, putting more money in people's pockets, and rebuilding Britain. Reforming our railways is central to this and will drive improved performance, bringing more people back to rail, generating greater revenue and reducing costs. This consultation document sets out our vision for the future of Britain's railways, and the transformative changes that are already underway to make it a reality.

We have already begun this transformation by delivering the legislation needed to bring our railways back into public ownership. But that is just the first step, we now require further, more fundamental reform to fix the underlying structural problems and put passengers back at the heart of rail services.

The Railways Bill will enable the biggest overhaul of the rail sector in a generation. It will bring track and train back together and enable services to be planned on a system-wide basis, to better deliver for passengers and freight customers, and to unlock growth. It will create stronger leadership by establishing Great British Railways (GBR)

as a new 'directing mind' for the industry, bringing together the management of the network and the delivery of passenger services into a single public body. GBR will have the tools and operational independence it needs to plan and run the rail system on a long-term basis, driving up performance and reliability.

Before the Bill is introduced to Parliament, the next step is to find out what industry stakeholders and the public think of the proposals within it. Feedback from the eight-week public consultation, that launches today, will help the government put the railway back on the right track, with passengers and customers firmly at its heart. We would very much welcome the views of the Transport Select Committee, and I look forward to working with you to ensure the comprehensive reform of our railways is delivered in a way that works best for the whole country and industry. I am also depositing a copy of this letter in the libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

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

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT