

John Larkinson
Director, Railway markets and economics

13 February 2018

Dear stakeholders

Opportunity to comment on Network Rail's strategic business plans

Network Rail's strategic business plans (SBPs) for CP6¹ are now available on its [website](#). This letter seeks your views on any high-level and material issues regarding the plans that you want to make us aware of.

The SBPs are the key input into the 2018 periodic review (PR18), which will lead to our draft determination (in June 2018) and our final determination (in October 2018).

The SBP submission includes separate strategic plans produced by each of Network Rail's devolved routes, its System Operator (the SO) and central functions. These should be consistent with our SBP guidance to Network Rail that we published last year². In particular, this set out our expectations for how Network Rail and its routes/SO should engage with and take account of the views of stakeholders when producing the SBPs. Reflecting this, our expectation is that issues will have been tested with many stakeholders already.

Against this background, we are inviting your views on the strategic plans in the SBP submission. We are principally interested in any high-level and material issues that you consider are relevant to our determination. For example, you may have views on whether the efficiency proposals in the plans are realistic, or whether the overall volume of maintenance and renewals is deliverable in practice. You may also have views on whether the priorities of stakeholders and end-users have been appropriately taken into account (e.g. given the funding constraints, have the right trade-offs been made?).

We are not expecting comments on issues of detail. We are also not seeking views on particular enhancement projects, as these decisions are not within the scope of PR18.

¹ Control period 6, which we expect to run from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024.

² Our SBP guidance to Network Rail set out our expectations regarding stakeholder engagement. See paragraphs 33-48, [Guidance on Network Rail's strategic business plans](#), February 2017.

We **welcome comments by close on 6 March 2018**. We recognise that this is a relatively short period in which to respond. However, we are only seeking high-level points and if comments are to inform our SBP assessment, we will need your feedback by this point. Please send this to pr18@orr.gsi.gov.uk.

This exercise builds on our work with stakeholders over the last two years to develop our thinking on how Network Rail should be regulated over CP6. It also complements our wider approach to securing stakeholders' views on the SBPs. For example:

- we continue to engage with stakeholders on our approach to scorecards, including regarding performance measures and trajectories included in the SBP. This includes engagement through industry fora, such as the National Task Force; and
- on our behalf, independent consultants Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) will be gathering views on the quality of the routes'/the System Operator's engagement in developing the SBPs. This includes interviews and questionnaires to a range of route- and SO-customers. Please contact us if you would like further information on this.

This work will feed into our June 2018 draft determination, which we will consult on over the summer.

We plan to publish any responses on our website. However, if you wish any information that you provide, including personal data, to be treated as confidential, please specifically say so in your response (an automatically generated confidentiality disclaimer will not be considered sufficient for this). Please be aware that regardless of any such request, we may be obliged to disclose or release any submissions made to us, for example under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Further information about how we may treat your response is available in paragraphs 6.40-6.43 of our [initial consultation](#) on PR18.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Larkinson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Larkinson