



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

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(sent by email)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

9 January 2024

Dear John,

**Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT) Report on the commission to deliver a simpler and more integrated railway**

I would like to thank you and your team for the excellent work in supporting GBRTT to develop their recommendations for the above commission. I also note the Office of Rail and Road's (ORR) statement on the publication of GBRTT's report.

My officials are undertaking a comprehensive process to consider the recommendations in GBRTT's report that are addressed to the Department. I have responded to Andrew Haines at GBRTT asking that they take forward those recommendations that do not require legislation to progress, in coordination and agreement with the ORR, and with close engagement with industry and broader stakeholders.

Delivering a simpler and more efficient railway that works for its passengers, freight customers and taxpayers remains a key priority for the Government. The Government announced Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) of the draft Rail Reform Bill last November which further demonstrates the Government's commitment to reforming the railways. This will give all interested stakeholders the chance to scrutinise the Bill, meaning once parliamentary time allows for its introduction, it will be able to swiftly pass into statute. The legislation in itself will not deliver reform but is vital in delivering the legal powers necessary to establish Great British Railways. The commission, alongside PLS, is an important part of maintaining the momentum for rail reform.

I would be grateful for ORR's continued support and expertise.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**