

THE OFFICE OF RAIL AND ROAD
218th BOARD MEETING
Monday 8 July 2024, 12:00 – 13:00
Via MS Teams

Non-executive members: Declan Collier (Chair), Xavier Brice, Anne Heal, Bob Holland, Justin McCracken, Daniel Ruiz

Executive members: John Larkinson (Chief Executive), Richard Hines (Director of Railway Safety)

In attendance: Fiona Bywaters (Board Secretary), Lisa O'Brien (Head of Media, Campaigns and Digital), Vinita Hill (Director, Corporate Operations), Graham Richards (Director, TfL Analysis), Elizabeth Thornhill (General Counsel), Stephanie Tobyn (Director, Strategy, Policy and Reform).

Other ORR staff who attended are shown in the minutes.

Item 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Catherine Waller and Madeleine Hallward, with apologies for lateness from Anne Heal.
2. Apologies for absence were also received on behalf of Feras Alshaker, Will Godfrey, and Russell Grossman.

Item 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. No new interests were declared.

Item 3 WALES AND WESTERN REGULATORY INVESTIGATION

Richard Coates (Deputy Director, RPP) and Steve Helfet (Deputy Director, Railway Operations).

4. Liz Thornhill (LT) introduced the report, referring to papers circulated since the last board meeting on the 27 June 2024 which included clarifications regarding what further steps could be taken by Network Rail (NR) to improve performance (and why therefore it is not taking all appropriate steps), as well as a communications plan. The clarifications document also laid out whether, and where, best practice exists elsewhere within NR.
5. The Board welcomed the information provided and asked whether any further formal representations had been received from NR since the last meeting, and this was confirmed not to be the case. No further questions were raised, and the Board was of the view that none of the exceptions to making a final order applied and that no modification to the terms of the proposed final order were required.
6. **The Board agreed to proceed with the final order, without any modifications.**

7. The Board briefly discussed associated communications of the decision taken. The final order would be published on 10 July 2024 (as soon as reasonably practicable following the decision), with appropriate stakeholders informed. Further communications would take place as part of the ORR Year in Rail event on 18 July 2024.

Anne Heal joined the meeting.

8. Anne Heal commented that she would have supported the decision, and the Chair had received comments from Madeleine Hallward confirming the same.

Item 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following paragraph is redacted from the published version as time-sensitive and covering confidential legal issues.

9. [...]

Paragraphs 10 and 11 are redacted from the published version as time-sensitive and covering confidential issues.

10. [...]

11. [...]

12. The Board also noted the appointment of Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE (Chair of Network Rail) as a Minister of State, announced by DfT shortly before the start of the meeting.

Meeting end: 12.44pm

Approved: 23 July 2024