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Cavendish Elithorn
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Damian Briody
Head of Projects & Technical Services
Transport Scotland

Paul McMahon
Director, Planning & Regulation
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

By email only

16 October 2024

Dear Abi, Cavendish, Damian & Paul,

ORR monitoring and reporting of Network Rail's CP7 strategic renewals

I am writing to confirm how the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) will hold Network Rail to account to effectively deliver its obligations for strategic renewals in Control Period 7 (CP7). Our PR23 Final Determination (FD) outlined a significant amount of funding for strategic renewals. These renewals are all part of the digital signalling portfolio.

With significant strategic renewals spend in CP7 it is important to clarify and agree our approach with stakeholders, including the Department for Transport (DfT), Transport Scotland and Network Rail so that roles and responsibilities are clear. We have defined a strategic renewal as a project or programme that could span numerous asset types and is of significant strategic importance e.g. the Trilink programme in North West and Central Region. In most cases these renewals have complex funding arrangements and as such the governance will need to be appropriate for each project or programme.

At the start of CP7 there are no strategic renewals identified in the Delivery Plan for Scotland. However, we understand renewals projects will continue to be monitored and reported through existing Team Scotland governance arrangements.



The projects/programmes which are classified as strategic renewals in CP7 are ECDP (East Coast Digital Programme), Trilink, Midland Mainline South St Pancras, Brighton Mainline South Haywards Heath, and Great Western Mainline Paddington to Hayes. We will work with each project/programme listed to assess the individual monitoring requirements; this process has already been completed on the Trilink programme. In agreement with funders, additional strategic renewals projects may also be identified in the remainder of the Control Period.

In CP7 we will hold Network Rail to account for the efficiency and deliverability of strategic renewals. We will work with Network Rail to gain assurance on individual projects/programmes and build progressive assurance for Control Period 8. We intend to apply the existing Managing Change policy to strategic renewals as appropriate. We will also report on strategic renewals in our [annual assessment](#) which sets out our views on Network Rail's performance within the Control Period.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with the DfT, Transport Scotland and Network Rail to enable delivery of strategic renewals and the wider digital signalling portfolio.

This letter will be published on our website.

Yours sincerely

Feras Alshaker