

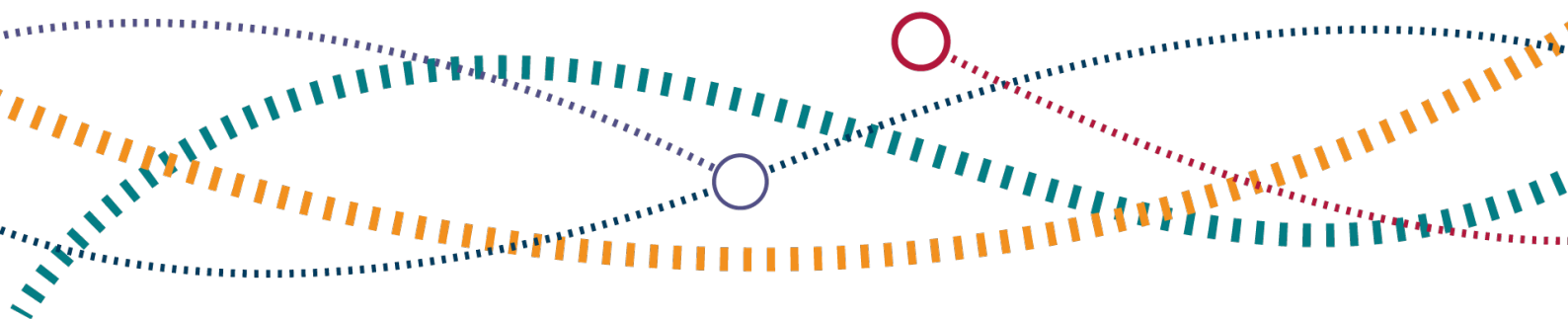


ORR's Road Expert Panel meeting

24 January 2024

Room 6, Cabot Square, London

1000	Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest
1015	Update from the Highways Team – reflections on safety report and RIS3 briefing
1100	RIS Enhancements
1200	Break
1300	Discussion on REP effectiveness and future programme look ahead
1330	Reflections from Highways UK
1355	AOB and close



Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest

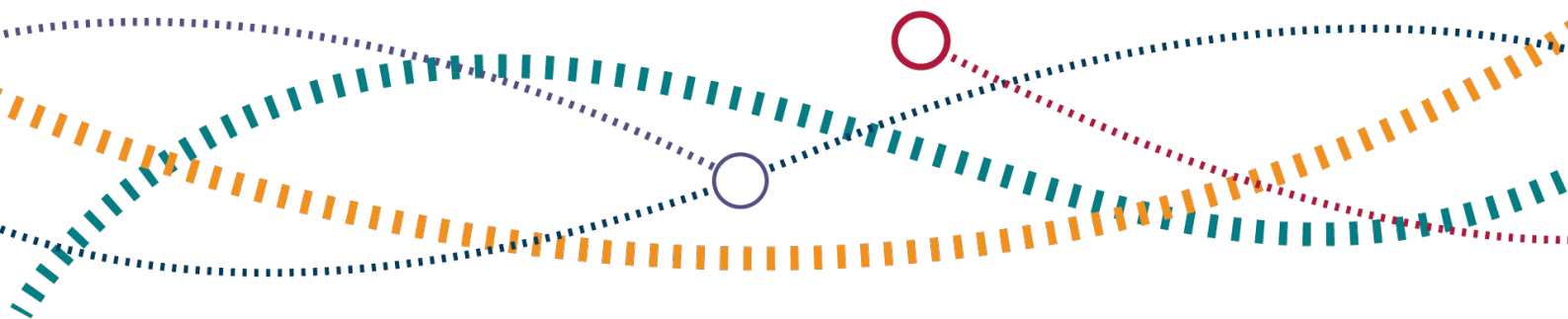
1. ORR welcomed panel members.
2. Introduction to ORR's new Deputy Director for the Strategic Road Network, Rachel Gittens.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

Update from the Highways Team

4. The ORR Team provided the panel with an update on the Annual Safety report, published on 18 December 2023. ORR indicated that National Highways (NH) had recognised the key messages within the report, in particular the need to focus on meeting its RIS2 safety target.
5. The ORR Team provided the panel with an update on the schedule to review National Highways' RIS3 draft Strategic Business Plan (SBP). There followed a panel discussion exploring the potential impacts of a general election on this work. The panel discussed DfT and NH's timescales for developing upcoming the SBP and draft RIS.
6. The panel discussed risks to and the impacts of uncertainty on wider industry long term plans. These uncertainties impact supply chain and can cause lower levels of efficiency across the sector. One matter considered was uncertainty surrounding the levels of funding attributed to Network North and its impact on preparedness across the industry.

RIS enhancements: holding to account advice

7. The ORR Team gave the panel an overview of proposed RIS3 enhancements. Uncertainty was a key theme throughout the programme and industry. This was followed by an overview of NH's RIS2 enhancements portfolio.
8. The panel discussed NH's missed commitments in RIS2 to date, along with the knock-on effects this could have for RIS3.
9. There was a discussion about NH's drop in performance. The panel discussed the company's effectiveness and whether its targets were sufficiently stretching while being achievable.
10. The ORR Team set out its areas of focus and approach over the short term.



REP effectiveness and future programme/look ahead

11. The ORR Team outlined the usefulness of the panel to date and how it had provided ORR with useful challenge, knowledge and expertise.
12. The panel provided suggestions on how to further improve its effectiveness. There was a discussion about potential areas of future discussion to appropriately support the ORR Team and its activities.

Highways UK

13. There was a discussion about the effectiveness of the Highways UK event, held in October 2023. This is a key annual event for ORR as part of its wider ambition to raise the public profile of its roads work. The panel thought it was important for ORR to widen and deepen its communications approach to explain to stakeholders and the wider public what the Team does. This would drive better external advocacy and understanding of ORR's role.

AOB and forward look

14. Next meeting scheduled for 21 March 2024. It would include an update on RIS3 and ORR's future holding to account approach.



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