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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot

12 April 2024

Dear Edward,

I am writing with regard to the recently announced changes to senior leadership in the ScotRail Alliance. Alex Hynes, currently Managing Director of Scotland's Railway, by which the Alliance between ScotRail and Network Rail Scotland is known, is being seconded to the UK Government's Department for Transport for two years, starting on Monday 15 April. His role will be to encourage the alignment of track and train that we have in Scotland to be emulated Britain.

Alex's role of Managing Director of Scotland's Railway involved being both Managing Director of Network Rail in Scotland, and of ScotRail. Network Rail will fill Alex's role in Network Rail by seconding Liam Sumpter to the post of Managing Director for Network Rail in Scotland.

The pace at which this decision was made and the very short notice given necessitated rapid decision making by Scottish Rail Holdings. On 10th April SRH announced that Joanne Maguire, currently Chief Operating Officer of ScotRail, will take up the role of Managing Director of ScotRail on an interim basis. I have met with Lord Hendy Chair of Network Rail and we are both in firm agreement that the successful collaboration and leadership of track and train in Scotland continues. A set of principles has been agreed across Network Rail, Scottish Rail Holdings, ScotRail Trains and Transport Scotland to ensure that the Alliance in Scotland is not just maintained, but strengthened. These principles are given as an Annex to this letter, and I would draw your attention to the shared commitment to review, strengthen and agree an updated Alliance Agreement as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely,

FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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Annex: Statement of principles agreed by Network Rail, Scottish Rail Holdings, ScotRail Trains and Transport Scotland

This document sets out the principles by which the most senior executive in ScotRail and the most senior executive in Network Rail Scotland will maintain and strengthen the ScotRail Alliance in the period until a permanent arrangement for replacing the functions of the outgoing MD of Scotland's Railway are established.

The purpose of these principles is to use the outward secondment of the MD of Scotland's Railway as an opportunity to not just maintain, but strengthen the Alliance, in both spirit and practice.

Principles:

1. The [Alliance Agreement](#) remains live and operational but is in need of updating. All parties recognise the successes of the first 10 years of the Alliance, and commit to build on it further for strengthened alignment between track and train.
2. All parties continue to be committed to abiding by the purpose, objectives, and principles of the Alliance Agreement and all other clauses of the Alliance Agreement.
3. The Alliance Board will be maintained in accordance with its specified functions in the Alliance Agreement. The most senior representatives of SRH, Network Rail Scotland and ScotRail will attend all meetings. The Alliance Board will continue to be Chaired by SRH as per current working arrangements whereby the Alliance Board Chair rotates on an annual basis.
4. The MoU that is in preparation between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and ScotRail Trains Limited, re: Control Period 7 output for Scotland's Railway, will be finalised and agreed by the Alliance Board and SRT Board by week commencing 22 April.
5. The 4 weekly Scotland's Railway Executive Team Meetings will continue, with the Chair alternating between most Senior Executives of Network Rail Scotland and the most Senior Executive of ScotRail. The most senior executives of Network Rail Scotland and ScotRail will come forward with a proposed schedule of meetings which will be attended by one, other or both individuals to ensure continuity of alliance arrangements. This will be produced no later than 22 April and shared with Transport Scotland and Scottish Rail Holdings for review and comment in draft prior to that.
6. The most Senior Executives of both Network Rail Scotland and ScotRail will collaborate with each other, SRH and Transport Scotland in the production of consolidated financial reporting for Scotland's Railway.
7. The most Senior Executives of both Network Rail Scotland and ScotRail will collaborate with each other, SRH and Transport Scotland to review, strengthen and agree an updated Alliance Agreement as a matter of priority, in such a way as to reinforce the bonds and working relationships between Network Rail Scotland and ScotRail.

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