

Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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21 November 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to advise that today we have published Rail Recharged: Scotland's Fleet Transition Strategy, which can be accessed on the Transport Scotland website through: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/rail-recharged-scotland-s-fleet-transition-strategy-delivering-a-modern-fleet-for-a-connected-scotland/>

This Strategy has been developed in line with the commitment made within the Rail Services Decarbonisation Action Plan (DAP), to review our progress against the challenges and opportunities the Scottish Government, and wider rail industry, has faced since the original plan was first published in July 2020.

We have made considerable progress towards rail decarbonisation through the completion of the Glasgow to Barrhead electrification project in December 2023. I am pleased that next month we will complete the electrification and enhancement of the East Kilbride line. Through over £143m of Scottish Government investment, passengers on this line will benefit from cleaner, greener, quieter, and more efficient services along with new stations at East Kilbride and Hairmyres.

Beyond this, we are investing £342m to electrify sections of the Fife and Borders routes to facilitate the introduction of battery-electric trains for the first time on the Scottish rail network. As part of this, we are also investing in new electric trains for the Glasgow Suburban area. These investments in key parts of our network will benefit 30% of Scotland's rail passengers.

Our Strategy builds on the Scottish Government's record of modernising Scotland's railway and is closely aligned with the action we are taking to replace ScotRail trains that are reaching the end of their useable life. It is essential that we continue to have a reliable and resilient fleet to sustain vital connections for our passengers.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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The passage of time since the first DAP was published has enabled us to develop a credible plan that recognises the often uncertain and challenging financial landscape we face. Drawing on the significant advancements in technology has meant we can procure Scotland's first battery-electric fleet for our Fife and Borders lines.

Central to our Strategy is our commitment to keep passenger services moving, investing strategically considering ongoing budgetary pressures and supporting Scotland's railway on its journey to net zero emissions by 2045.

This document sets out the action we are taking to introduce new rolling stock to our rail network and how this will sustain the future reliability of our InterCity, Suburban and Rural services for the long term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Hyslop', written in a cursive style.

FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport