



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE
Minister of State for Rail

17 October 2025

Dear Minister,

Railways Bill

When the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee met on [7 October](#) for an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, she told us that she and her officials have been working with you and officials in your department as you develop UK-wide legislation reforming railways.

We note that a Bill on this topic was outlined in the 2024 King's Speech but has not yet been introduced.

Given the role that this Committee will have in making a recommendation to the Scottish Parliament about whether or not to grant legislative consent to aspects of the Bill within legislative competence, or altering legislative or executive competence, we want to ensure sufficient time is scheduled in our work programme to allow appropriate scrutiny of this important matter. To this end, we hope you can assist in our planning, by explaining:

- When do you expect to introduce a railway reform Bill?
- When do you hope the Bill will be on the statute book? (We appreciate that this will not be entirely known at present, and that this will depend on the speed of progress at Westminster, but sharing any backstop you currently have in mind would be very useful.)

While we are aware of the existing material in the public domain indicating the Bill's potential content, we would also be grateful for an outline of the aspects that you see as most significant from a devolved perspective. In particular, whether existing devolved arrangements are likely to be substantially modified, noting that the Cabinet Secretary raised with us that she is "yet to be assured that the executive devolution that we currently have will be maintained".

I would be grateful for a response to these points by Friday 14 November.

Yours sincerely,

Contact: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email netzero@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee