Biography - Sir Peter Hendy CBE

Sir Peter Hendy CBE has been the Chair of Network Rail since July 2015. He was appointed by then Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, for a four year period.

Network Rail owns, manages and develops Britain's railway – 20,000 miles of track, 40,000 bridges and viaducts, and thousands of signals, level crossings and stations (the largest of which it also runs). In creating economic growth, jobs and housing by connectivity, there are more than 1.6billion journeys by rail every year - doubled since 1996 - and hundreds of millions of tonnes of rail freight, saving almost 8million lorry journeys.

In November 2015 Network Rail published the Hendy Review – Sir Peter's report on Network Rail's CP5 (Control Period 5, 2014-19) enhancement portfolio in England and Wales, which had seen some significant cost and timescale pressures. Sir Peter concluded a thorough review of the enhancement programme, and detailed what could be delivered in a timely and affordable way.

Sir Peter stood down from being Commissioner of Transport for Transport for London, having served in that role for nine and a half years. Knighted in the New Year's Honours List 2013, the citation for him said he had provided inspiring leadership since becoming Commissioner in February 2006. He made London a world leader in integrated and innovative transport delivery, and oversaw record-breaking operational performance, passenger numbers and TfL's largest ever investment programme. He led, and played a key role in preparing for, the successful operation of London's transport for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sir Peter joined TfL's predecessor, London Transport, as a graduate trainee in 1975 and gained experience of all aspects of bus operations before being appointed Managing Director of CentreWest London Buses Ltd in 1989. In 1994, he led the successful buy-out of CentreWest by its management and staff with venture capital backing. He expanded the business, and, after its sale to FirstGroup plc in 1997, he became Divisional Director, London and South East. Immediately prior to joining TfL, Sir Peter was Deputy Director UK Bus, responsible for FirstGroup bus operations in London and Southern England, starting operation of Croydon Tramlink, and a Director of New World First Bus in Hong Kong.

In January 2001, Sir Peter rejoined the public sector to become TfL's Managing Director of Surface Transport, where he oversaw the revitalisation of London's bus service, resulting in an increase in passengers of more than 60 per cent. As Transport Commissioner, Sir Peter led the largest long-term investment programme in London's transport network in generations, vital to supporting economic development and growth not only in the Capital but across the UK. This resulted in faster, more frequent, Tube services operating more reliably than at any point in history; an extended and expanded Docklands Light Railway; the creation of the London Overground orbital rail network; the start of Crossrail construction; the launch of the cycle hire scheme; and the construction of the UK's first urban cable car, the Emirates Air Line. Every day, around 30 million journeys are made on the TfL network. In 2015/16 more than 2.3 billion journeys were made on the bus network and more than 1.3 billion journeys were made on the Tube.

In 2007, London hosted the Grand Depart of the Tour de France, with Sir Peter and TfL leading delivery of the event on behalf of the city. The Tour returned to London in 2014, watched by more than a million spectators.

The London 2012 Games demonstrated how far the capital's transport network had come under Sir Peter's leadership. Sir Peter chaired the 2012 Games Transport Board, which saw TfL work in partnership with Games organisers, Government, local authorities, transport operators and regulators to ensure all athletes, officials and spectators got to their events on time and London and the UK kept moving and remained open for business. TfL has since built on the transport legacy of the Games – with more reliable services, increased accessibility, first-class customer information and collaborative working with business stakeholders and the freight and logistics industries.

Following the terrorist attacks on London on 7 July 2005 and the immediate recovery of the public transport networks, Sir Peter was awarded the CBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours List for services to public transport and the community in London.

Sir Peter served as President of the International Public Transport Association (UITP) from 2013 to 2015. Representing 3,400 transport operators, authorities, suppliers and academic members in 92 countries, UITP is the preeminent global voice of the public transport industry. It provides a platform for sharing best practice and innovation and is a strong advocate of sustainable mobility.

Sir Peter was President in 2011/12, and is a Vice-President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport and a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Sir Peter has been a member of the Permanent Way Institution since 2016.

He was educated at Latymer Upper School in London, has a BA in Economics and Geography from the University of Leeds, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by City University in February 2010, an honorary Doctor of Engineering by the University of Bath in July 2014, and an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Leeds in July 2015. From 2005 until 2010, he was Chair of the Commission for Integrated Transport. He was formerly a Council member of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, and a member of the Employment Tribunals.

Sir Peter, 64, is married to Sue, and has two children, Dave and Anna. He supports the Railway Children and London Poppy Day charities, is a trustee of London's Transport Museum, President of the Widcombe Social Club in Bath and supports St Giles' church at Imber, Wiltshire. He owns and drives an iconic London Routemaster bus, is a keen cyclist, and is a member of the Groucho Club.

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