



Department for Transport

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Our Ref: MC/00024185

11 December 2024

Dear Elly,

Thank you for your letter of 8 October, congratulating me on my appointment and suggesting a meeting to discuss the implications on Londoners of the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act and further devolution to Transport for London (TfL). Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The Government is committed to delivering a unified and simplified rail system that focuses on improved services for passengers and better value for taxpayers, ending years of fragmentation and waste.

We have passed legislation to bring passenger services back into public ownership and will also bring forward further legislation in this session to create Great British Railways (GBR) – a new arms-length body which will act as a “directing mind” for the railways. GBR will ensure the highest standards of customer service and operational performance, bring track and train back together, and have a relentless focus on delivering for passengers and freight customers.

I recognise the success TfL has made of rail devolution, including the unique factors within the TfL model which have supported this. I would like to assure you that TfL will continue to be able to manage its current services and infrastructure and will remain democratically accountable for its decisions through the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Mayor. To be clear, as the Public Ownership Act does not apply to devolved services in London, there will be no change to the ability of TfL to contract its services with the private sector.

In our 'Getting Britain Moving' plan, we committed to a statutory role for devolved leaders in governing, managing, planning and developing the rail network, to bring decision-making as close as possible to local communities. For London, this will give the Mayor direct engagement with GBR, allowing specific local issues to be considered as part of GBR's whole network approach.

The Government has no immediate plans for further devolution of services ahead of the establishment of GBR but will consider any proposals forthcoming from TfL on this matter.

Officials in our respective organisations have been in contact throughout the development of the Public Ownership Act and the upcoming Railways Bill. This engagement has been positive and constructive, and I look forward to continued discussions with TfL, GLA and the London Assembly on how to align London's public transport system with the wider changes this Government is taking forward.

I look forward to working with you as plans to deliver a coherent national network through GBR develop and discuss the implications for Londoners. My Private Office will explore finding a suitable time to meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL

cc: Eleanor Haigh, the Committee's Senior Policy Adviser; Paul Goodchild, the Committee's Clerk