

MDA No.: 1836

Title: Railways Bill

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the Annual meeting on 1 May 2013 the Assembly resolved:

That authority be delegated to Chairs of all ordinary committees and sub-committees to respond on the relevant committee or sub-committee's behalf, following consultation with the lead Members of the party Groups on the committee or sub-committee, where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a committee meeting.

- 1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Transport) on the Railways Bill, as attached at **Appendix 1.**

2. Decision

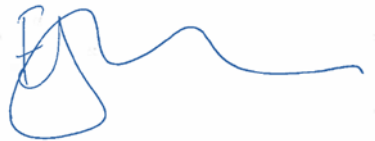
- 2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agrees the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for Transport on the Railways Bill, as attached at Appendix 1.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elly Baker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Printed Name: Elly Baker AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

Date: 10 February 2026

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Group Lead Members, under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the Transport Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): *Hannah Barlow*

Printed Name: Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager

Date: 10 February 2026

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.


Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rebecca Arnold, Deputy Monitoring Officer

Date: 11 February 2026

Email: MonitoringOfficer@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Thomas Turrell AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Caroline Russell AM
- Hina Bokhari OBE AM
- Keith Prince AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, until what date:

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature: *Eleanor Haigh*

Printed Name: Eleanor Haigh

Job Title: Senior Policy Advisor

Date: 19 December 2025

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: *Helen Ewen*

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director – Assembly Secretariat

Date: 10 February 2026

LONDON ASSEMBLY

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Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
(Sent by email)

13 February 2026

Dear Heidi,

Railways Bill

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly Transport Committee regarding the treatment of London TravelWatch in the Railways Bill (the Bill).

The Bill (as introduced) treats London TravelWatch and Transport Focus differently. Transport Focus¹, the independent watchdog for transport users in Great Britain, is currently named in the Railways Bill as a statutory consultee on future railway plans and strategies, and on changes likely to impact passengers. Whereas, London TravelWatch², the statutory watchdog for passenger transport in and around London, is not.³

London TravelWatch's remit covers National Rail issues within the London railway area and passenger transport services under the responsibility of Transport for London. Approximately 70 per cent of rail journeys in Great Britain start, end or go through London and London TravelWatch's remit covers around 400, out of a total of 2,500, railway stations.⁴ London TravelWatch provides a

¹ Officially known as the Passengers' Council

² Officially known as the London Transport Users' Committee

³ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#)

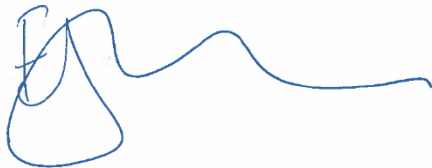
⁴ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#), January 2026

vital service championing the transport needs of Londoners and campaigning for improvements to London's transport system. National rail policies and decisions have significant potential to affect London transport users; it is important that London TravelWatch is consulted on these to ensure the interests of London transport users are properly represented.

London TravelWatch has submitted evidence to the Railways Public Bill Committee proposing an amendment to the Railways Bill to add it to the list of statutory consultees.⁵ I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly Transport Committee to give our support to this proposal. Given the Transport Committee's responsibilities conveyed upon it by the London Assembly in respect of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, I trust you will give due consideration to this discrepancy and support the inclusion of London TravelWatch as a statutory consultee under the Railways Bill.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by 27 March 2026. Please send your responses to Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager and Eleanor Haigh, Senior Policy Adviser at assemblytransport@london.gov.uk.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elly Baker', with a long, flowing horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elly Baker AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

⁵ UK Parliament, [Railways Bill](#), January 2026