



Network Rail
151 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5NW

29 April 2022

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee call for views: Legislative Consent Motion on the High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill.

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for contacting Network Rail regarding the Scottish Government's Legislative Consent Motion on the High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill.

Across Network Rail, we have worked closely with the Scottish Government, the UK Government and HS2 Ltd to ensure that the high-speed rail network provides substantial benefits to Scotland. We are working together to achieve the UK and Scottish governments' shared ambition to reduce cross-border journey times as well as reducing carbon emissions by making rail an attractive form of transport.

It is estimated that HS2 will benefit Scotland's economy by over £5 billion, connecting Glasgow and Edinburgh with fast and reliable services to other major cities in the UK. This will increase productivity and expand the reach of Scottish businesses.

The High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill currently going through the UK Parliament provides the legal basis for extending the high-speed rail network from Crewe to Manchester. It also includes provisions for how HS2 trains will connect to the West Coast Main Line and to Scotland. This will ensure that HS2 trains serve stations in Scotland, including Glasgow, Edinburgh and Lockerbie. Glasgow will be served from the opening of Phase One Services.

Network Rail has worked closely and constructively with HS2 Ltd, Transport Scotland and the Department of Transport on the development of the high-speed rail network, including the train stabling facility at Annandale. We will continue to collaborate with these partners to progress plans for a depot, which will house HS2 trains serving Scottish destinations and provide essential light maintenance services.

Construction of HS2 will also provide further vital investment in the railway, securing new jobs, skill development and delivering a railway that is modernised and fit for the future.

The delivery of HS2 will also provide substantial environmental benefits to the UK. Reduced journey times will encourage passengers to choose rail and, vitally, HS2 will free up capacity on Network Rail's existing infrastructure, enabling new freight services to emerge. With every freight service operating on the rail network, up to 76 lorries are removed from roads. Increasing the attractiveness of rail, the most environmentally friendly form of long-distance transport, is within everyone's interests and will help to meet the Scottish and UK governments' net zero targets.

Network Rail will continue to work with its partners to ensure that high-speed rail delivers environmental benefits, increases capacity on Britain's rail network, cuts journey times, and improves reliability on routes between Scotland and England.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Spence

**Director, Strategy & Investment
Scotland's Railway**