

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

3 February 2023

Dear Edward,

Publication of Scottish Ministers' High Level Output Specification and Statement of Funds Available for Scotland's Railways

Scottish Ministers, in conjunction with the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), have set out, under a statutory process, what the Scottish Ministers want to be achieved by Scottish railway activities during the review period of April 2024 to March 2029 (Scottish Ministers' High-Level Output Specification or HLOS) and the funding available, or likely to become available to Network Rail Scotland to deliver those outputs during that period (Statement of Funds Available or SoFA).

The next step will be for Network Rail Scotland to prepare its draft Business Plan. The process will then conclude with the ORR making its "final determination" on the level of government funding required (which should have regard to the level of funding available or likely to become available) to deliver the Scottish Ministers' high-level outputs as specified. Network Rail, in response, will set out, within its strategic plan, how it will discharge those requirements within that funding level.

The HLOS and SoFA will represent a significant level of future investment within Scotland's Railway.

Network Rail has set out its plans to deliver Safe and Efficient Performance for Scotland's Railway and Scottish Ministers have backed that ambition with significant funding - £4.2 billion – throughout the five-year Control Period. Despite the Scottish Government's challenging fiscal environment, we remain committed to supporting a safe and reliable railway.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Rail can also play a substantial part in achieving our ambitious climate change and decarbonisation targets. We want to build on the success of our publicly owned railway and continue to equip the industry to meet increased demand and deliver a reliable and high-quality railway shaped by and used by the people of Scotland.

I attach copies of the HLOS and SoFA with this letter. Committee Members and members of the public will also be able to access the reports electronically from the Transport Scotland website with accessible copies available from Transport Scotland. Copies will also be sent to the SPICe group.

Yours sincerely

JENNY GILRUTH

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