



Department for Transport

Elaine Clark OBE
Rail Forum Chief Executive

Darren Caplan
Railway Industry Association Chief Executive

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
Minister of State for Rail

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: lord.hendy@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/00038051

12 May 2025

Dear Elaine and Darren,

Thank you for your letter of 14 April to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury setting out your concerns about the continuity of the Midland Main Line Electrification programme (MMLE). I am replying in my capacity as Minister of State for Rail.

First, I would like to echo your praise of Network Rail and the rail supply chain in the successful completion of electrification between Kettering and Wigston, south of Leicester. This will enable new bi-mode rolling stock to operate later this year once enhancements to the existing Overhead Line Equipment south of Bedford is complete.

Electrification plays an important role to ensure we achieve our Net Zero 2050 target. We are currently developing a strategic approach to deliver rail decarbonisation that considers both track and train and we will continue to invest in electrification projects that deliver value for money for the taxpayer, in addition to the use of other technologies such as battery trains. We are aiming to engage with the industry soon and provide more clarity later this year.


As you are aware, the electrification of the remainder of the Midland Main Line route from Wigston to Nottingham and Sheffield via Derby, is in development. While design work and route clearance are being progressed, funding to continue the programme is subject to both business case considerations and the multi-year Spending Review being led by HM Treasury.

The Spending Review will ensure an affordable and credible network-wide programme of works is established to support the government's mission to improve the railway for passengers and freight operators, and in so doing, support growth and opportunities and deliver a more sustainable, greener railway.

The outcome of the Spending Review is expected in June and will provide clarity on the capital programme for rail over the next four years.

I recognise that a clear work pipeline supports the private sector to plan its resources effectively, ensures skilled workers are retained, and can result in greater cost efficiencies. Alongside the conclusion of the Spending Review, the government is aiming to publish a 10-year infrastructure strategy which will set out our long-term plans for infrastructure in the UK.

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