



Department  
for Transport

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Sir Peter Hendy  
Chair  
Network Rail  
One Eversholt Street  
London  
NW1 2DN

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:

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## **INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE**

The Government has today reaffirmed its commitment to Britain's vital Transport network as part of wider plans set out in the Chancellor's Spending Review.

We could have scaled back our ambition on transport. We could have stopped building the infrastructure our country needs. Instead, the government is investing in our future. Our railways will not become a brake on growth and opportunity.

The Chancellor's Spending Review, announced today, reaffirms this commitment, but both our organisations have had to make tough choices, including your commitment to release £1.8 billion of investment through the sale of non-core and lower value assets. We have had to make up for the fact that successive governments have failed to invest the sums necessary to deliver the transport infrastructure our country needs. But we will provide the crucial links that allow people and businesses to prosper.

I am delighted that, as part of our transport settlement, we will invest over £60 billion in transport this Parliament. This represents an increase of more than 50% compared to the previous Parliament.

Alongside investment to make vital national schemes such as High Speed 2 a reality, we are delivering the Road Investment Strategy. This will triple investment in our strategic road network, adding 1,300 extra lane miles to major roads and transforming journeys on our road network.

We will ensure transport plays its part in building the Northern Powerhouse by investing in smart ticketing in the North and putting Transport for the North on a statutory footing.

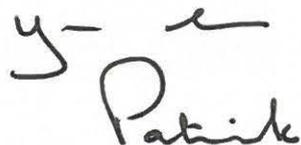
This ambition is reflected in our commitment to rail, of which your report, published today, is a vital part.

Rail and road upgrades will result in some disruption in the short term. Not every project will go to plan. But we will see the job through. There are always reasons to stick with the past, but we will take the long-term decisions necessary to deliver opportunity for future generations.

That is why today I am pleased to accept your report, subject to a short period of consultation with relevant stakeholders.

This period of uncertainty and speculation has been deeply regrettable and cannot be allowed to happen again. Today we have published Dame Colette Bowe's report, into lessons learned from the planned processes used for the 2014-2019 enhancements programme, which I have laid as a Command Paper in the House. Collectively, we are now implementing important changes in response to her recommendations - to ensure more effective planning and delivery in future.

I am placing a copy of my response to the Bowe report and of this letter in the libraries of the House and on my Department's website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'y' followed by a horizontal line and the name 'Patrick' written in a cursive script.

**RT. HON. PATRICK MCLOUGHLIN MP**