



Union Connectivity Review

11 March 2021

Dear Respondees,

Union Connectivity Review Interim Report Published

I wanted to write to thank you personally for taking the time to provide written evidence to the Union Connectivity Review's Call for Evidence. The insights have shaped our direction and improved our understanding of the opportunities and challenges. It is greatly appreciated, and the team continues to analyse the responses received. Whilst it's with regret that due to the lockdown restrictions we can't meet to discuss the Union Connectivity Review in person I wanted to update you on the progress being made.

The Union Connectivity Review is intended as an opportunity to assess current transport connectivity within and between the nations of the UK and make recommendations that will maximise economic potential and improve quality of life. The Prime Minister asked me to begin my work from October 2020 and this week we published the [Interim Report](#). It provides an overview of my work to date and outlines the direction I intend to take, with a final report due to the Prime Minister in summer 2021.

Specifically, the Interim Report considers the existing transport connectivity in the UK and breaks this down by mode for passengers and for freight; it considers transport needs and what a network of the future might look like; finally, it overviews the stakeholder engagement which has taken place to date.

A key emerging recommendation is the possible development of a new UK Strategic Transport Network, loosely modelled on the aims of the EU Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The Interim Report elaborates on my thinking of how a UK Strategic Transport Network or equivalent could support better assessment of transport routes and investment decisions,

better management of the flow of people and goods between nations and improved partnership working between the UK government and devolved administrations. When I spoke to various organisations in the autumn there was initial support for this, subject to understanding more about the details and additional funding being made available. The Review believes that there is a strong strategic case for a UK Strategic Transport Network and will undertake additional work to define this further.

You may have seen that the Prime Minister wrote a piece in the Telegraph on 10th March outlining his initial views on union connectivity and shared a short video online. I am grateful for his support. As you would expect conversations with industry, government, devolved administrations and other stakeholders will continue leading up to the final report in the summer as I'm keen to hear views on my Interim Report and how to make progress. The team will be in touch about future engagement shortly and I look forward to having further conversations, hopefully some of which will be in-person subject to the progress made with the government's roadmap.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', written over a light blue grid background.

Sir Peter Hendy CBE