

Proposed note of the first SO Advisory Board meeting

On 24th July, the System Operator Advisory Board met for the first time – a new senior governance meeting providing challenge, advice and guidance to the SO Leadership Team. The Board has the following members:

- Bridget Rosewell – Network Rail Non-Executive Director-and chair of this meeting
- Brian Etheridge – Department for Transport (Funder England & Wales)
- Bill Reeve – Transport Scotland (Funder Scotland)
- Catherine Mason (representing the interests of passengers)
- Russell Mears (representing the interests of the freight sector)
- Russell Evans (elected by current rail operators)

We also have a seat for a member providing insights from another system operator equivalent function in the rest of the world -we hope to able to make an announcement about this role soon.

In this initial meeting, members of the Advisory Board and the System Operator Leadership Team engaged in a wide ranging discussion around the System Operator Operating Model (as described in *About Us: A guide to the System Operator*) and its implications for the industry.

The Advisory Board also discussed the periodic review process, including an update on the Draft Determination as it affects the SO, and looked at the System Operator scorecard structure plus current performance. Reflecting on the current pressures on our Capacity Planning team, members of the Advisory Board discussed both the T-12 recovery plan and December 2018 Timetable approach, in particular the risks and timescales associated with this approach and what the SO team is doing to manage those risks.

In addition, the Advisory Board received updates from the two Standing Advisory Groups: Operators & Applicants and Infrastructure Managers & Routes. The Standing Advisory Groups provide national-level industry engagement, scrutiny and consultation with our stakeholders, in order to promote and provide system-level coordination. The Board reflected on the challenges surrounding the bedding in of System Operator within NR and the industry more widely, as well as how to mature best as a function over the next few periods.

The process for appointing an Independent Chair is ongoing and future meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.