



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Our ref:

13 July 2007

Dear Chris,

HIGH LEVEL OUTPUT SPECIFICATION

I have pleasure in attaching Scottish Ministers' specification for the outputs that we wish to secure from the rail industry between 2009 and 2014.

I welcome the opportunity to set out our priorities for improving the network as we seek to work to deliver a world-class railway for Scotland. Under the powers transferred to Ministers by the Railways Act 2005 we are responsible for specifying the high-level outputs required and we now look to the industry to deliver a coherent and affordable plan that addresses our priorities.

This High Level Output Specification both expresses our programme of planned rail interventions and reflects our emerging rail priorities. We have a portfolio of major projects which build on the existing infrastructure that are included in tier 2 of the specification. Additionally, there are a number of priority areas that Scottish Ministers are committed to continuing to progress to delivery, this includes the connectivity of Edinburgh airport with the rail network, which are included within tier 3 of the specification. These are initiatives that we wish to see included within Network Rail's planning for this period but where future decisions on the basis of soundly-developed business cases and the availability of resource are required. We expect Network Rail to work actively with Transport Scotland and industry stakeholders to deliver credible plans to support the development and decision making in these areas. We also expect plans to be developed which respond appropriately to our policy and strategy guidance.

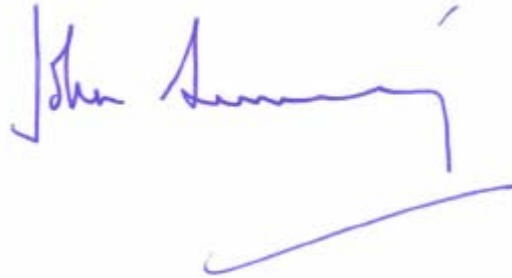


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The High Level Output Specification is a Ministerial policy statement in the context of the guidance that we issued to the Office of Rail Regulation in March 2007 and we look forward to working with you to ensure that this is translated into a set of outputs and targets that are funded appropriately and can be delivered efficiently in the next Control Period.

Yours sincerely



JOHN SWINNEY