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Management Suite  
Dundas Street  
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G1 2AQ

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy, and Transport Committee

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Convener,

Since I gave evidence to the Net Zero, Energy, and Transport Committee on 30 May 2023, and having had the opportunity to consider my contribution, I thought it would be helpful to provide some further context to my remarks.

On 30 May I was asked by Monica Lennon MSP:

“According to board papers that have become public, the former Chair of ScotRail Chris Gibb, who was also the Chief Executive Officer of Scottish Rail Holdings - I hope I’ve got that correct. He is no longer in those roles, but he raised concerns about micromanagement by Scottish Ministers, advisers, and officials. David Lowrie, do you recognise that characterisation?”

In response, I stated:

“I obviously can’t talk for Chris personally. In terms of his leaving, his...he had a fixed term contract, and he was employed by Scottish Rail Holdings for the entire originally expected period of that contract. So, it was always anticipated in that sense contractually that he would leave when he did. In terms of those phrases, I’ve heard those phrases since he left. Before I knew he was going I didn’t hear... I had no conversations with him on that sort of stuff in terms of worries. I just do not recall a conversation before he announced he was not going...was going.”

These statements are correct, but I can provide additional context to assist the committee’s understanding.

At the 8 December 2022 Scottish Rail Holdings Board meeting, Chris Gibb recorded his views on his relationship with the Scottish Government, which have since become public, and those were discussed. I was present at that Board meeting in my then-capacity as Scottish Rail Holdings Finance Director, but I do not recall any specific one-to-one conversations with Chris Gibb about his views on this matter.



As I told the committee on 30 May 2023, I cannot speak for Chris on the matter. My own experience as Chief Executive Officer of Scottish Rail Holdings and Chairman of ScotRail is that we have a positive, constructive, and improving relationship with the Scottish Government. We are all committed to delivering a safe, reliable, and green railway for Scotland, which connects communities and grows our economy.

Yours sincerely,  
David Lowrie

**Chairperson**

ScotRail Chair & Scottish Rail Holdings Chief Executive Officer

CC Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero, and Just Transition

CC: Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Transport

CC: Monica Lennon MSP, Central Scotland