

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener, Net Zero Energy, and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

28 March 2024

Dear Convener,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on the railway in Scotland since public ownership.

As promised, I am writing to provide further details on Aberdeen – Central Belt enhancements, which was raised by Douglas Lumsden MSP during the evidence session.

We have been working closely with Transport Scotland to develop our Aberdeen – Central Belt enhancement plans. Together, we agreed on a set of objectives, which included the following:

- A 20-minute journey time reduction between Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and a 9-minute reduction between Aberdeen and Glasgow, as well as improvements to other services.
- An additional hourly Aberdeen to Dundee through service providing better intermediate connectivity along the route.
- Significantly enhanced freight capacity.

To deliver on these objectives, we have identified several infrastructure interventions along the route, such as signalling enhancements, the provision of passing loops, and station reconfigurations at Aberdeen and Dundee to increase operational and timetabling flexibility.

With the design phase effectively complete, we are working with Transport Scotland to prepare the Outline Business Case for submission to investment decision. We will deliver the project in line with the content and timing of the relevant funding decision.

Yours sincerely,

Liam Sumpter

Route Director, Network Rail Scotland