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Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

By email: [REDACTED]

20 November 2025

Dear Alison

THE RAILWAYS BILL

I am writing to let you know that the Scottish Government is considering the need to lodge a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) in respect of the UK Government Railways Bill.

Scottish Parliament Standing Orders provide that an LCM should normally be lodged with the Scottish Parliament two weeks after the introduction of a relevant Bill in Westminster. In the case of this Bill the deadline would be Wednesday 19 November. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet this deadline due to the size and complexity of the Bill, the need to consider a number of changes which were made to the Bill as introduced, the significant number of provisions within the Bill requiring consent and ongoing discussions with the DfT to reach agreement on that point. Our current assessment indicates that 27 out of 93 sections and a further 25 provisions in schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill appear to trigger the LCM process.

The UK Government considers that legislative consent is required for a number of those provisions but not all. Discussions between officials are ongoing in this connection. We currently expect the Bill to be of interest to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

We anticipate lodging the LCM no later than Monday 15 December. My officials will keep in contact with yours regarding anticipated timescales for lodging the memorandum.

I am copying this letter to Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, and Edward Mountain MSP, Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME DEY