

## PAPER TO RDG BOARD

**Meeting Date:** 11 February 2020  
**Paper Title:** Minutes from last meeting  
**Author:** Deborah Lewis  
**Sponsor:** Paul Plummer  
**Paper Date:** 17 December 2019  
**Reference:** Paper 1a

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**17 DECEMBER 2019**

**RDG OFFICES, 200 ALDERSGATE STREET, LONDON EC1A 4HD**

### ATTENDEE LIST

Chris Burchell	Arriva
Paul Plummer	RDG
Paul McMahon	Network Rail
Steve Montgomery	First Group
Robin Gisby	DOHL
David Brown	Go-Ahead
Jeremy Long	MTR
Peter Strachan	Serco
Julian Edwards	Abellio
Julian Drury	Trenitalia
Yasumitsu Tanaka	Mitsui
Andy Bagnall	RDG
John Thomas	RDG
Jac Starr	RDG
Robert Nisbet	RDG
Deborah Lewis	RDG

**Apologies:** Philip Hoare (Atkins – RSG); Ernesto Sicilia (Trenitalia); Mark Thurston (HS2); Dominic Booth (Abellio); Alistair Gordon (Keolis); Hans-Georg Werner (DB Cargo); Gary Long (Freightliner); Andrew Haines (Network Rail)

## MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Item No.	Approval of record
1	Chris Burchell (CB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted late apologies from Gary Long. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting on 7 November 2019. All actions are closed.

Item No.	RDG activity update
2	<p>CB noted the meeting's open agenda to allow broad discussion of key issues for the industry now, and strategic steer for coming months and years. CB updated Board on recent engagement with ORR Chair regarding shared agenda and potential post-Williams scenarios; and with The Trainline, RDG's relationship with whom has improved which aids transparency. He commended colleagues for hosting a successful RDG conference.</p> <p>CB noted the tragic death of a WMT train driver at Tyseley Depot on 14 December. Julian Edwards provided brief details of the incident which resulted in the fatality; an update will be given to Members following completion of RAIB and BTP investigations. WMT is working to support the driver's family and colleagues, and has re-briefed all depots regarding safe walking routes.</p>

Item No.	Post-election: what next for the railway?
3	<p>Paul Plummer (PP) outlined the topics and aims of the strategic discussion. Broad context was given in terms of Tory manifesto, including three key areas for railway: industrial relations (IR); investment; and regional devolution. Short term key milestones are 19 December Queen's Speech which will include a Bill to deliver minimum service level (MSL) requirements; Brexit; and in transport terms, Oakervee. The macro implications for the railway include: the industry will continue to be judged on its basic service, making punctuality key; IR – MSL Bill is a chance to shape legislation; a stronger government that is likely to challenge industry and remaining support for nationalisation, creates a clear need for industry to show ambition and leadership, and be visibly impatient for reform.</p> <p>Board agreed on the need for a collective longer term piece of work looking at what the industry will need in coming years in terms of skillset, rolling stock and workforce demographic, which might mean a bigger workforce and/or cost changes depending on Williams outcomes. That long term view will enable a constructive discussion with government about future rail needs and people strategy, and allow the industry to shape</p>

	<p>a sustainable solution that trades unions can engage with. The need for government to be more open to rail using technology to innovate in all areas, from driver training to ticketing, was discussed. In the wider people strategy context, Members committed to addressing people issues in their businesses, and to supporting further work on the industry people plan deliverables.</p> <p>Board agreed on the need for continued engagement to shape wider Williams reform agenda before the white paper is published, and supported collaboration with government in advance of Williams launch, to enable positive industry support. . Members discussed the importance of managing the industry forward and planning for the interregnum between the white paper being published, and new industry structure being embedded.</p> <p>Jac Starr (JS) summarised the latest work and position on fares and ticketing reform, including potential trials across the network. Members agreed on the need for leadership to push the fares trials forward. There was discussion of TPRs and specifically the process for approving new applications. It was agreed that the industry should work to raise awareness of the TPR business model among political and other stakeholders. RDG will share its legal advice on new TPR applicants to allow Board to take an informed view on retail review. It was recognised that Williams recommendations may change the landscape significantly, as government may have appetite for major change.</p> <p>Accessibility was discussed, including the immediate issue of PSVAR compliance.. It was recognised that industry should provide government with options and make clear that providing a fully compliant RRV fleet for the network could take years to achieve. Board recognised the likely growing pressure for further improvement in accessibility across the railway as a whole. It was agreed that while it is right to aim for improvement, there is a challenge in providing increasingly accessible services without high numbers of customers that do not require that level of access, being impacted.</p> <p>There was brief discussion of a proposed long term vision for the railway, which would aim to join up key major strands of cross-cutting industry work including operational/asset management, technology, people strategy and the decarbonisation agenda. A more fully developed proposition will return to Board in early 2020. PP also highlighted the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow 2020. Claire Perry as COP26 president is looking to engage businesses including the rail industry. There is a clear opportunity for rail to demonstrate on a global platform, the key role it can play in a decarbonised future, so Members will consider their involvement.–The key freight issues were noted.</p>		
1912.01	RDG to circulate summary of legal advice re barring new TPR applicants and being potentially anti-competitive.	Paul Plummer	December
1912.02	RDG to send PSVAR legal advice for Members' clarity regarding January 2020	Paul Plummer	December
1912.03	RDG to bring a framework for developing long-term rail strategy to RDG Board in early 2020	Paul Plummer	March Board

Item No.	Noting items
5	

Members agreed with the proposal in noting paper on misaligned performance incentives, for RDG Reform Board to be lead governance group on work to better understand causes of delay, particularly sub threshold delay – do we have the right systems, tools and understanding? – with an aim of changing the current use and long term direction of Schedule 8. The proposed steps and draft response outlined in the customer information noting paper were supported.

Board supported the direction of travel outlined for potential evolution of RDG, and linked next steps for 2020/21 budget planning, recognising that even if Williams proposes change, this will take time and activities will need to continue in transition.

END OF PAPER