



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

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William Graham AM
Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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- 9 NOV 2015

William,
Dear ~~Mr Graham,~~

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2015, seeking further information following the evidence given by my officials to your Committee on 17 September. I am glad that their evidence was helpful.

The Government believes that it would be undesirable to generally re-open discussion on Silk recommendations around which there was no consensus. We therefore do not intend to revisit the question of devolving Network Rail funding given the discussions on the issue during the St David's Day process.

I also do not think it would be productive to speculate on how funding for rail infrastructure in Wales would be devolved when there is no such proposal under consideration at the present time.

I note that your Committee is planning to undertake an inquiry into the future of Welsh rail infrastructure in the spring. My Department would of course be happy to assist your Committee with that inquiry. As you will be aware from my officials' evidence, I expect to receive three reports over the next few months containing recommendations relating to the planning and delivery of Network Rail's rail enhancement projects, and Network Rail's longer term shape and financing. The terms of reference for these reports can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-reports-on-network-rail-publication-of-terms-of-reference>

Yours sincerely

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN