



Department
for Transport

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
Minister of State for Rail

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Paul Britton
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20 March 2025

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March to the Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State, about Great Western Railway's (GWR) Project Churchward. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

I appreciate your enthusiasm and support for GWR's Project Churchward. I am pleased to see that GWR and Network Rail have been working closely together to develop plans to replace aging rolling stock with trains that will better meet the needs of passengers in the future. Any specific proposals are subject to both approval of the business case and funding being available.

You may be aware that the Government is in the early stages of formulating a rolling stock strategy which will include considerations around the timelines for new build, refurbishments, and potential cascades. Once established, Great British Railways will take the strategy forward providing a long-term approach to future rolling stock needs. My Department will continue working with GWR and other industry parties in relation to these matters.

Thank you once again for your correspondence. I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL