

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
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Dear Mayor Khan,

Your election as Mayor of London 2024-28

We write first to congratulate you on your historic third term as Mayor of London.

As Britain's leading independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for better rail services and a bigger rail network for passengers and freight, Railfuture lobbies stakeholders in order to make the case for rail to support economic growth, environmental improvements and better-connected communities. We represent rail users nationwide through our 14 regional branches and around 20,000 affiliated and individual members, having existed through our founding organisation for over 70 years.

Prior to the election we wrote to you with Railfuture's 'Rail Manifesto for London'. This comprised ten tasks which we consider essential to improve all of London's railways – including the DLR and London Trams as well as the Elizabeth Line, London Overground and London Underground, and of course the mainline services contracted by the DfT. The Manifesto is linked [here](#) for ease of reference. Many of these points are supported by you as Mayor, and there is already much alignment between our respective aims.

Most if not all of these tasks will take financial resources to varying degrees, and indeed it seems that one of the main impediments to achieving these goals is indeed financial. Ultimately they require policy and funding support from other Governmental authorities, and we look forward to continuing to play our part in lobbying for that support.

As an informed and independent pro-rail campaign group, we expend considerable energy supporting those rail improvements which we consider to be beneficial, which are supported by our rail user members, and which are practical projects with good prospects of a sound business case.

In the past three years we have for example participated at their invitation in the London Assembly Transport Committee's discussion on the future of rail and transport in London (October 2021), contributed to TfL's step-free access survey (February 2022), supported TfL's proposed station enhancements at Surrey Quays station (March 2022), and supported the proposed extension of the DLR to Thamesmead (March 2024).

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk



We see many synergies between our Manifesto and your stated aims concerning rail transport in London, as set out in chapter 4 of your 2018 Transport Strategy 'A good public transport experience' and in particular section d) 'Improving rail services and tackling crowding.' Our first aim in our Manifesto, for example, is for all rail services in London to be under the control of the Mayor of London, something which has the support of a variety of concerned organisations.

One of the contenders to form the next national Government has as you know recently made it clear that the railways will comprise a component of its manifesto pledge, and we see new opportunities for positive changes and the possibility of achieving at least some of our shared aims. We will certainly work towards that goal.

As an independent, non-party political body funded exclusively by our own members, we work with all national, regional and local governmental entities, and look forward to continuing to collaborate with – and as appropriate constructively challenge – you as Mayor and Chair of the Transport for London Board, TfL itself and the London Assembly's new Transport Committee, in respect of our mutual aims.

Again, many congratulations.

Kind regards,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Railfuture
Vice-Chairman, London & South East regional branch
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board