

**A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION FOR WALES
CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

From

railfuture

Please note responses are required by 9 January 2017. Responses can be sent to:

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Question 1: Do you agree that NIFCW's remit and output should consist of analysis, advice and recommendation to the Welsh Ministers?

Q1 Railfuture agrees with the remit and output. It will be important to advise Ministers to enable them to fulfil their Programme for Government.

Question 2: Do you agree that NIFCW's remit should extend to non-devolved as well as devolved infrastructure?

Q2 Railfuture considers that the remit should include land reclamation and transport in its widest sense. Coordination and integration between the components of the strategic infrastructure is very important eg between sea defences and rail transport. The Commission should not just focus on the needs of the built environment but should also consider the

needs of the Welsh Rural (countryside) environment.
Railfuture agrees that the remit should cover both devolved and non-devolved infrastructure.

Question 3: Do you agree that NIFCfW should not advise on programmes and work that have already been decided, or will be decided in the immediate future, by statutory and regulatory bodies?

Q3 Railfuture does not support any delay to the work of the new Commission.

Question 4: Do you agree that NIFCfW should be able to at cross-cutting delivery issues if it considers them a barrier to delivering infrastructure needs, including governance, costs, financing and programme/project management methodology? Please specify any other delivery issues that you consider NIFCfW should be able to look at and the reason.

Q4 Railfuture agrees that the Commission should look at cross cutting delivery issues. Railfuture considers that there should be more joined up delivery between Network Rail and Welsh Government schemes and a fair proportion of National UK Funding allocated to Welsh Rail Infrastructure schemes. Railfuture is also concerned that Government did not consult on proposals for light rail in South East Wales before issuing the bid tenders for the Wales and Borders franchise.
There must also be synergy with the future Area Statements prepared by Natural Resources Wales.

Question 5: Do you agree that NIFCW should engage closely with and consult other bodies that may have an economic and environmental infrastructure remit? Who do you think are the key bodies that NIFCfW should engage with and consult?

Q5 Yes including non statutory and voluntary bodies such as Railfuture. There must be consultation with all interested bodies and Railfuture does not support that only key bodies should be involved. Many interested bodies have a high level of expertise that could be of benefit to the Commission.

Question 6: Do you agree that NIFCfW's remit should extend to participating in other relevant strategic advisory fora, such as the Council for Economic Renewal? Please specify any other forum you consider NIFCfW should participate in and the reason.

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Q6 The Commission should be an independent organisation and not part of any other organisation.
Railfuture is concerned that City Region Boards do not meet in public and publish minutes. There must be more transparent operation by bodies that are involved in major infrastructure projects in Wales.

Question 7: Do you agree that the Welsh Government should undertake and publish a review of NIFCfW's status and remit before the next Assembly election in 2021?

Q7 Railfuture agrees with this proposal

Question 8 Do you agree that NIFCfW should work collaboratively with the UK National Infrastructure Commission where relevant?

Q8 Railfuture agrees with this proposal

Question 9: Do you agree that NIFCfW members should be appointed by virtue of their expert knowledge and experience?

Q9 Railfuture agrees with this proposal

Question 10: Do you agree that all appointments to NIFCfW should be made through an open public appointments exercise?

Q10 Yes Railfuture agrees with this procedure which must include candidates with the widest range of experience available including environmental and customer/user needs.

Question 11: How do you think we should promote this public appointments process to under-represented groups?

Q11 The importance of the work of the Commission to provide better living, working, environmental sustainable and economic for all must be widely disseminated for the

Commission to achieve credibility and hence the involvement of underrepresented groups. There must also be involvement when consultation takes place.

Question 12: Do you agree that NIFCfW should be able to commission targeted research? Please identify any specific research you think NIFCfW should commission as a priority in order to best inform its work, and explain why.

Q12 Railfuture considers that organisations interested in the work of the Commission should have a delegated contact within Welsh Government and be able to input their views/advice to the Commission. This would reduce the need for commissioning research. There will be a need at times to commission research especially in those sectors which are poorly funded for research eg transport and environmental areas

Question 13: Do you agree that NIFCfW should publish an annual report on its work? What factors do you think might require reports to be published more than once a year?

Q13 Yes within three months of year end with the opportunity for interested bodies to pass comments on the report at a national forum. The Commission must also publish its recommendations.

Question 14: Do you agree that NIFCfW should hold public meetings in North, Mid, South and West Wales to explain and promote its role?

Q14 Yes with the opportunity to meet members of the Commission

Your name/organisation and postal/email address

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We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

railfuture

Railfuture Cymru/ Wales wishes to comment on the proposal to establish an infrastructure Commission for Wales. Railfuture also notes the establishment and role of the Transport for Wales Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Advisory Panel and recognises the need for the two bodies to work together especially to fulfil the requirements of the Future Generations

and Environment Acts. This includes well-being, sustainability and low carbon goals. There must be the involvement of the future Generations Commissioner who perhaps should be a member of the proposed Infrastructure Commission. It will also be important to provide linkages with the National Development Framework and National Resources Policy both of which will be published in the future and clarify the role of the Commission in these areas. Railfuture considers it important that there must be consultation with interested organisations by the proposed Commission before any recommendations are made. There must also be a clear definition of the term longer term infrastructure needs. The Commission's findings should be made public at the same time as they are made available to the Welsh Government.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: