

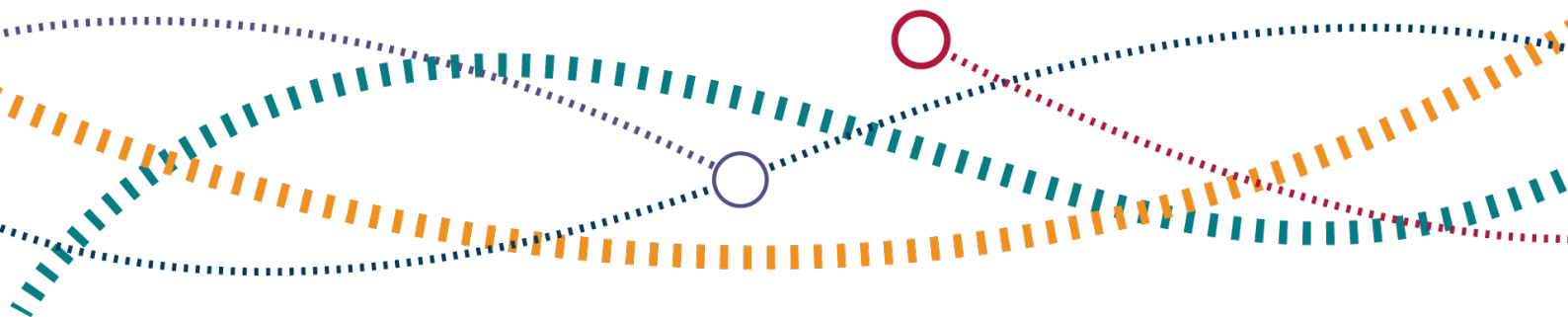


Road Expert Panel

04 December 2024

25 Cabot Square, London

1000 to 1005	Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest
1005 to 1050	Update from the Highways Team
1050 to 1130	The role and work of the Road Expert Panel and ORR's future approach to industry insight and stakeholder engagement
1130 to 1135	Break
1135 to 1215	Ten years of Roads Reform: review, evaluation and future prospects
1215 to 1230	Thanks and close



Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest

1. ORR welcomed Panel members.
2. There were no declarations of interest from members.

Update from the Highways Team

3. The ORR Team provided an update to REP on progress developing the interim settlement for 2025-26 and the third road investment strategy (RIS3) for 2026-31. An update was also provided on ORR's upcoming safety report and National Highways' (NH) implementation of its post-investigation improvement plan.
4. The panel discussed the impending end of the second road period (RP2) and how ORR would hold NH to account and effective working between the Department for Transport (DfT) and ORR.

The role and work of REP and ORR's future approach to industry insight and stakeholder engagement

5. The panel discussed its objectives when it was set up and challenges for 2025-26 when DfT has agreed that the panel will be paused. The keys themes discussed were:
 - legitimacy and credibility;
 - independent perspectives;
 - confidentiality; and
 - costs.

Ten years of Roads Reform: review, evaluation and future prospects

6. The panel discussed the ten year anniversary of Roads Reform in 2025, whether it is delivering its intended benefits and remains fit for the future.
7. The panel acknowledged progress on achieving the core purposes of reform. Looking ahead the panel discussed whether Roads Reform should support a shift in focus to addressing environmental issues, climate change and decarbonisation.

8. The panel considered that Roads Reform had improved behaviours and culture at NH and encouraged more and better collaboration and engagement.
9. There was a discussion on future challenges. This included:
 - DfT's role and approach, including on evaluation of Roads Reform and whether the RIS is aligned with achieving its principles;
 - NH's ability to do work beyond the RIS given what it is funded to do and how it can be encouraged/supported to innovate and be ambitious;
 - change of government and focus on regulatory effectiveness;
 - ORR ensuring its voice is heard when policy, approach and future risks are being discussed in government;
 - digitalisation and tools and the impact of connected and autonomised vehicles on the strategic road network;
 - environmental challenges, including the speed and impact of climate change; and
 - changes in road user needs and integration with local networks to drive value.



© Crown copyright 2024

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at orr.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at orr.gov.uk/contact-us

