



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
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The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

*Dear Chris*

**RE: Appointment of Rob Brighthouse as Interim Chair for East West Railway Company (The Company)**

Thank you for your letter outlining your intention to appoint Rob Brighthouse as the interim Chair for East West Railway Company without an open competition.

Whilst appointment as a result of fair and open competition is always preferable, you have set out a clear argument for an exemption in this instance. Rob Brighthouse has led on work to set up the Company over the past 18 months, and I accept that a period of continuity is required while the Company remains in its infancy, at a time where recruitment to other roles, including CEO, is ongoing. I am therefore content with the appointment of Rob Brighthouse as interim Chair.

I have noted your commitment to running a competition to appoint substantively in 2019. You have not provided specific detail as to the timing of this planned competition, further clarification on this would be much appreciated. You will be aware that section 7.8 of the Governance Code states that *'the aim should always be to conclude the process within three months of a competition closing.'* I would be grateful if you could ensure that my office are kept updated about the progress of this competition once it is underway.

*All best wishes  
yours sincerely*

*Peter*

**Peter Riddell**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**