

## In The News | 2nd February 2021 | Latest Rail News

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The chairman of HS2 has resigned weeks before a crucial government decision on the eastern leg of the scheme.

That is according to an article in The Times that says it was confirmed yesterday that Allan Cook, who earned £230,000 a year for a three-day week, will leave HS2 Ltd in July, about six months before his three-year term was due to end.

The paper says it is understood that he decided to step down to enable his successor to be in place when vital tunnelling work on the project starts later this year.

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Work will begin shortly on a 10-month programme at Stirling station to deliver a £3 million investment to refurbish the non-glazed roofs of the grade A listed station.

Working between February and December, the project will see the refurbishment of all slate roofs, flat roofs, roof-lights, stone chimneys and parapets and all guttering and drainpipes.

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The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has welcomed a significant moment for the city-region's long-term vision for rail as Transport for Greater Manchester has taken over the operation of Horwich Parkway Station.

It will act as a blueprint for Greater Manchester's future approach to station management, which includes working with local partners and the rail industry to ensure stations are accessible, integrated and reflect the needs of their communities.

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Finally, and a pioneering project using biometric monitoring technology to further boost light rail safety has taken a major step forward with sector-wide trials of a new prototype wearable device.

Developed as part of the Driver Innovation Safety Challenge, FOCUS+ uses ground-breaking technology to monitor fatigue levels of key employees and alert operators of other wellbeing issues that may impact on safety.

Led by Edinburgh Trams with the support of UKTram and a partnership of public and private sector organisations, a number of networks across the UK have already signed up to the initiative.

[Click here for more details.](#)

*Photo credit: Network Rail*