

Louise Haigh MP appointed new Shadow Transport Secretary

November 30, 2021



Louise Haigh MP has been announced as the new Shadow Secretary of State for Transport.

Commenting on the news she Tweeted: "It has been an incredible honour to serve as Shadow NI Secretary. I have met the most amazing people, committed to building peace and relationships across these islands And such a privilege to defend Labour's legacy on the Good Friday Agreement and its vision for a shared future.

"I'm now looking forward to getting stuck into the Tories on behalf of communities who have been sold out by their transport betrayal and developing Labour's vision to deliver for the whole of the country."

She replaces Jim McMahon MP, who is now Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

He Tweeted: "I've enjoyed and relished leading on Transport for @UKLabour and I'm looking forward to getting stuck in to a new Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Following the footsteps of my predecessor Michael Meacher in fact."

Commenting on the appointment, Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry Association, said: "I would like to welcome Louise Haigh to the role of Shadow Transport Secretary, on behalf of the Railway Industry Association, our members and the wider rail supply community.

"Ms Haigh joins at a pivotal time for the UK rail industry, as we seek to encourage passengers back onto the network and spur an economic recovery following the pandemic, as the industry begins a major restructure into a new Great British Railways model, and as we continue to deliver major rail improvements across the country, including projects like HS2, the Transpennine Route Upgrade, Midlands Rail Hub and many more.

"The rail supply industry will continue to need certainty of rail investment, including in both infrastructure and rolling stock, to ensure we can continue to deliver successfully. This means understanding what upgrades are contained in the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline, having a rolling programme of electrification and fleet orders of hydrogen and battery trains in order to meet Net Zero targets and getting digital signalling rolled out before current equipment becomes life expired. We look forward to working with Ms Haigh on all these opportunities and challenges, to ultimately support a bigger and better rail sector.

"I'd also like to thank outgoing Shadow Transport Secretary Jim McMahon who over the past year has shown himself to be a strong advocate of rail and its value to the economy. We wish him the very best in his new role as Shadow Environment Secretary and look forward to working with him as MP for Oldham West and Royton in the years to come."

Photo credit: Railway Industry Association