

Thursday 18 January – Session 1 – 11:10hrs**What will the General Election really mean for public transport?**

This Parliament has been one of the most tumultuous in British political history, with three Prime Ministers, five Chancellors, and the nation's politicians navigating our exit from the European Union, a global pandemic, and war in Ukraine. With a General Election and a possible change of Government on the horizon, our speakers will bring their political insights and experiences in public transport and infrastructure to share what the industry can expect from the upcoming election, and how we can influence decision makers.

Chair: Catherine DeMarco, Partnerships Director, First Bus

As Partnerships Director, Catherine works across the UK business to advise on policy and strategy in support of local business units. Prior to joining First Bus, Catherine worked for 17 years as a civil servant in the Department for Transport, building experience and knowledge in a wide variety of roles including in rail, skills and innovation, local transport and the environment. She has also worked overseas in strategy consulting, including in South Africa where she advised on projects to unpick the legacy of apartheid land use planning in relation to bus services.

Speaker: Christine Quigley, Deputy Head of Public Affairs, Grayling

A specialist in the transport sector, Christine brings 16 years' experience in public affairs, political risk management and strategic communications from working in-house, in agency and for the Labour Party. She has led major integrated campaigns for clients in the bus and coach sector, as well as in automotive, rail, maritime and future mobility. Before joining Grayling, Christine was a political adviser to the Labour Party on transport issues, Head of Public Affairs at the Rail Delivery Group and Communications Director at Keolis. Christine is a former board member of Women in Public Affairs and former chair of the CIPR Public Affairs Group. She was shortlisted for Consultant of the Year at the 2020 PRCA Public Affairs Awards and in 2021 was one of only three public affairs professionals in the Women in Westminster: The 100 list of influential women in UK public life.



Speaker: Sonia Khan, Associate Director, Cicero



Sonia has widespread sector experience, working with clients across financial services, tech, management consultancy and transport. She also provides political counsel to senior stakeholders, drawing on her 10 years' experience in politics. She oversees work on cross sector domestic political risk tracking and manages the delivery of political products including political advisor mapping. Sonia was recognised as 'One to Watch' by Women in Westminster 2021 and one of the most influential PR professionals in Britain in the PR Week PowerBook in 2021 and 2022. Sonia started her career in local campaigning before joining the Government in press office roles. She has worked at No10 Downing Street in a bespoke campaigns team set up by David Cameron to launch the National Living Wage campaign. She has also worked as a special adviser in the Treasury to former Chancellors, Philip Hammond and Sajid Javid and oversaw their engagement with the media.

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