



12 October 2018

Roy Cartlidge
8 Coppenhall Lane
Crewe CW2 8TT

Dear Mr Cartlidge

PETE WATERMAN

During the public presentation time at the Local Transport Board (LTB) on 21 September, you questioned whether Pete Waterman, the Chair of the Board, should have declared his interests at the meeting held on 22 June. Specifically, you were concerned that the June meeting had agreed to send a request to the LEP “to do all within its power.....to affect a change in the provision of skills and training within the railway industry”, and that Dr Waterman had failed to declare his interest in this discussion as you believed he is a Director of the Rail Exchange Training Academy (RETA) and Infrastructure GB.

I have followed the procedures set out in the LEP’s complaints policy <http://www.871candwep.co.uk/content/uploads/2015/09/Complaints-Policy-1.pdf> to investigate your complaint and apologise that it has taken me longer than 14 days to complete my investigation. I have questioned Dr Waterman himself, some of those present at the 22 June meeting, and reviewed Dr Waterman’s entry on our Register of Members Interests and the LEP’s Conflict of Interests policy. Based on this evidence, my observations are as follows:

- Railway skills were not included on the original agenda, so Dr Waterman would not have been expected to declare an interest at the start of the meeting.
- Dr Waterman, and two others present at the meeting, say that in his remarks during the discussion on railway skills, Dr Waterman referred to his involvement in the rail skills industry. This was not, however, recorded in the minutes and should have been.
- Dr Waterman has told me that RETA has never traded and is in the process of being wound up. He therefore has no pecuniary interest in the company.
- Infrastructure GB is an organisation that says that it works with local and national agencies, LEPs etc, to deliver the best infrastructure outcomes for the UK. The organisation does not appear to have any direct engagement in the rail skills industry, so there is no conflict with Dr Waterman’s engagement in the discussion at the June LTB meeting.



- Dr Waterman's role at Infrastructure GB is included on the LEP's Register of Interests.

On the basis of these observations it does not appear to me that Dr Waterman had a conflict of interest that he should have declared at the meeting on 23 June. Nevertheless the reference he made to his more general interest in railway skills at the meeting should have been recorded in the minutes to ensure that there is no risk of any appearance of impropriety. I will be reminding minute takers of the importance of this.

Under the LEP's Complaints Policy, if you are unhappy with the way your complaint has been dealt with, or the conclusions that have been reached, you have the right to appeal. Please address your appeal to:

Mark Livesey
Deputy Chief Executive
Cheshire & Warrington LEP
1st Floor, Wyvern House
Winsford CW7 1AH.

I am copying this letter to Dr Waterman.

Yours sincerely

Philip Cox
Chief Executive
Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

cc: Dr Pete Waterman