

26 August 2009

SCDI RESPONSE TO HIGH SPEED RAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Responding to the publication of Network Rail's New Lines Programme, Dr Lesley Sawers, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, said:

"We now have a clear business case for high speed rail links from London to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The proposed line will improve connectivity, give us faster links to key markets throughout the UK, and is fundamental to improving our economic competitiveness. However it is essential that this links in with the existing network so all of Scotland can benefit.

"We now hope that the main parties will match Network Rail's ambition and put timely delivery of the proposed line at the heart of their manifestos for the upcoming General Election.

"A high speed connection could also play a huge part in reducing carbon emissions from the transport sector, one of the key challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions