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DfT advertises Briscoe and Munro jobs at HS2

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Sir Brian Briscoe and Alison Munro: current chairman and chief executive of HS2 Ltd

Top jobs on HS2 Ltd's board, including chief executive and chairman roles, are being advertised by the Department for Transport.

The DfT has signed up executive recruitment agency Odgers Berndtson to support a recruitment process to strengthen HS2 Ltd's board. This will help transform the organisation from providing merely an advisory role to being a fully-fledged delivery body following the transport secretary's decision to proceed with the High Speed 2 programme ([TB 8187](#)). This change in function will be reflected in the increase in size of HS2 Ltd from around 80 staff to around 300 with the budget rising from around £40m a year to over £180m.

HS2 Ltd's chairman and chief executive roles are currently taken by Sir Brian Briscoe and Alison Munro. A spokesman for the DfT said the decision to advertise the positions formed part of measures to change the organisation into "a different beast". He said both Briscoe and Munro would be eligible to apply for the new jobs.

The advertisement for the chair role - offering a salary of between £120,000 and £140,000 - is now open and will close on 8 February. An appointment will be made for three to five years with an option to extend up to a maximum of 10 years.

Recruitment of the remaining senior roles will follow shortly afterwards so that the new chair can be involved in these appointments. Chief executive and non-executive director roles will be advertised from 13 February to 9 March.

Following the Secretary of State giving the go ahead for High Speed 2, the main role of HS2 Ltd is to undertake work and provide the advice needed to enable the DfT to lay a hybrid bill before Parliament by the end of 2013. This will be to legislate for the construction of a high speed railway between London and the West Midlands.

HS2 Ltd will continue to develop route options for phase two of the project, including lines from the West Midlands to Leeds and Manchester, and a spur to Heathrow. This will include engineering design work and appraisals of sustainability. HS2 Ltd will also prepare materials and provide advice to develop and inform future public consultations.

* Transport secretary Justine Greening told Parliament last week that there are currently 20 civil servants working full-time on high speed rail with additional input from a number of other officials within the DfT. Staff spent approximately 1,500 hours working on HS2 in 2009, around 4,600 hours in 2010 and approximately 27,000 hours in 2011. The large number of hours worked in 2011 included time engaging with stakeholders and the public during the five month public consultation.

References

[^] (TB 8187)
(<http://transportbriefing.co.uk/news/story?id=8187>)

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