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# Greening criticised over opposition to pay scheme

By Kiran Stacey, Political Correspondent

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Justine Greening has been accused of hypocrisy after vowing to vote against a pay scheme for Network Rail bosses that Labour MPs and industry insiders insist she would have been consulted on.

Ms Greening told BBC1's *Sunday Politics Show* that on Friday she would become the first transport secretary in 10 years to attend the company's meeting, where she would vote against the proposed incentive scheme. Under that plan, Sir David Higgins, the chief executive, could receive a £340,000 annual bonus, on top of a share of a potential £15.6m pot for long-term incentives, despite worsening performance.

Separately, aides said the transport secretary would use her power to appoint a non-executive director to the Network Rail board this year.

But Labour MPs and industry officials say it is disingenuous for Ms Greening to vote against the plan when her department would have been consulted closely in formulating it.

Ms Greening's promise to vote against the overall structure of the company's pay scheme also puts her in an awkward political situation. It may mean having to vote in favour of the alternative proposal to cut annual bonuses to a maximum of 30 per cent of salaries – a measure being put forward by Lord Berkeley, a Labour peer.