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## That's a nice little earner! £1m bonuses for rail chiefs just to stop them leaving

By [Ray Massey](#) and [Lucy Osborne](#)

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Rail bosses have approved £1million in taxpayer-funded bonuses for three directors in order to stop them from being poached.

The performance-related payments of £300,000 each will be made on top of the trio's £360,000-plus salaries.

They were approved at Network Rail's annual general meeting, triggering anger among union members.



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**Controversial: Rail bosses have approved £1million in taxpayer-funded bonuses for three directors in order to stop them from being poached**

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The bonuses will go to operations director Robin Gisby, infrastructure director Simon Kirby and finance director Patrick Butcher in 2014.

Astonishingly, Network Rail chief executive Sir David Higgins dismissed the sums as 'not a huge incentive' to make the trio stay. He said: 'If they really want to go, they will go.'

Union activists from the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) dressed as Fat Controllers protested outside the meeting in Glasgow as Network Rail nodded through the so-called 'golden carrot' retention payments.

The company's latest accounts show Mr Gisby earns a basic salary of £360,000, Mr Kirby £360,000 and Mr Butcher £382,000.

Following intense pressure from Transport Secretary Justine Greening and wider public anger over the railway bonus culture, Sir David, who earns £560,000, announced in February that he and other board members would forgo any bonus for this year.



**Not happy:** Transport Secretary Justine Greening, pictured, has placed pressure on rail bosses over the railway bonus culture

The company – which is given £4billion a year from the taxpayer – has also been warned it may be fined if its targets are not met by 2013/14.

Of the latest payments, a Network Rail spokesman said: 'These are retention bonuses.'

'We know that all three of the directors have been approached by other companies to be poached, and we haven't got a bonus scheme in place.'

'The board's and indeed the Office Of Rail Regulation's concern was that they could walk away right in the middle of us trying to deliver some rather big projects.'

'As long as they are still here in 2014 and their personal performance is at least as good, they will get the payment.'

The arrangement would be better described as a 'golden carrot' as it contains no contractual ties, the spokesman added.

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Yea £1000,000 for the bosses !.....But , WHAT ABOUT THOSE GREEDY DRIVERS ??????

- Race to, the bottom, 20/7/2012 09:22

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Reminds me of something I was told in case I started to think that I was indispensable: put your hand in a bucket of water, take it out again, and reflect that the size of the hole that is left is a measure of how much you will be missed. Someone should tell these greedy parasites that.

- Ian B, Warwick, EUSSR, 20/7/2012 09:09

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Let them leave... Let some people who want to do the job to serve the public rather than just line their pockets with ever more exorbitant sums of money have their positions

- Mr Sanity, Somerset, uk, 20/7/2012 09:07

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If they want to go, let them, with not a penny. They've made a pigs breakfast OF RUNNING THE RAILWAYS FOR YEARS

- valerie, ardressan ayrshire, 20/7/2012 09:02

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CHIEFS GET VERY HIGH SOLRY, no because they earned it,or deserve it but because paying them so much can motivate other people to work hard in the hope that they will one day be overpaid like the boss.The funny thing about this theory is that if you follow it to its logical conclusion, you would not only pay them ridiculously high salaries ,but you would also force them to spend more time with their friends and families and sent them on expensive vacation in order to complete the picture of perfect life-because this would be the best way to motivate other people to try to become Chiefs.

- Nico, MCR, 20/7/2012 08:59

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£4 Billion of taxpayers money? Greening, another third rater who his completely out of her depth, these railway chancers run rings round her.

- Nanuk of the North, Morpeth Northumberland, 20/7/2012 08:56

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It's time those who set these ridiculous deals were reminded that the cemetery is full of indispensable people

- John , Cambridge, 20/7/2012 08:50

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worthless pen pushers who no-doubt were born in the right area and went to the right schools. they don't even have to maintain the track. scandalously the taxpayer pays for the track to allow them to run the worst rail service in europe.most of us cant afford to use the railways.

- nononsenseman, windsor, 20/7/2012 08:49

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And you wonder why the drivers want to strike for a poxy £500. You have a nerve complaining about drivers being paid £36,000 P.A. Drivers are important to a railway, managers are not, get some priorities.

- Josef, Siberia, 20/7/2012 08:46

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Wonderful! Do an appalling job. Ruin the reputation of the UK. Treat your customers worse than cattle and get a massive bonus on top of your already inflated salary6. They should all be saked

- JD, London Uk, 20/7/2012 08:43

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