

Personal statement by Ian Coleby.

Following the events leading to the WSRA EGM on Sunday 10 May, the WSRA Board has suspended me as a trustee.

I have received many messages of support over the last couple of weeks and I would like to set out the sequence of events that has led to this outcome.

Members will have seen the letter that I wrote with the mailing from the Reform Group. I had hoped that the EGM would have marked a new beginning for the Association and our railway.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. The meeting was difficult and it is my opinion that no one present could have any confidence in the results of the voting. For example, at least one member stood up and said that his proxy was not counted, yet this appeared to be ignored. This one proxy would have made a difference in the results.

After the meeting, I was very concerned that the result was not seen to be fair. I approached Susan Kaufmann and asked to exercise my right as a director to see the proxy forms and to conduct an audit. Eventually, Susan agreed to meet me on Thursday morning. When I told her that I wanted to see all the forms and voting records and I would bring a legal representative with me, she cancelled the meeting. I then reminded her of my legal right to see the forms, but I had no response.

I was then called to an extraordinary meeting of the trustees for Wednesday afternoon. I was not issued with an agenda for the meeting nor was I told of the business in advance. After a short first item, my suspension was discussed. I have not been provided with any details of the charge. I am not permitted to reveal the details of the discussions, but the outcome is that I am suspended pending an investigation. I have not yet been informed of the timescales for this investigation, what it is to consider, or who will chair it.

I am sorry that the trustees have chosen to take this approach which I feel is unlikely to improve relations on the railway.

Ian Coleby

14 May 2015