

BY EMAIL

9 May 2023

Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

**Re: Open letter to the Prime Minister, urging the Government to bring forward the Bill establishing Great British Railways and rail reform in this Parliament**

Dear Prime Minister

As private sector railway suppliers and investors in UK rail we welcome the recent announcement of the location for GBR's new headquarters in Derby. This is a significant milestone on the road to reforming our industry and delivering a simpler, better railway for everyone in the country.

To build on this momentum we – the Railway Industry Association and member companies – ask the Government, as a matter of priority given short timescales, and to gain the benefits as soon as possible for both customers (passengers and freight) and the industry, to bring forward the Bill which will formally establish Great British Railways before the end of this Parliament. This will enable the private sector to work alongside the new “guiding mind” to grow passenger numbers and freight volumes, at a time when we are all seeking to boost the economy and decarbonise, helping the Government achieve Net Zero by 2050. Our businesses are committed to UK rail, but they need certainty to invest and deliver best value and a much better deal for the taxpayer.

There are a significant number of railway industry jobs and millions of pounds of investment in virtually every constituency. Nationally, independent analysis by Oxford Economics shows that UK rail supports £43bn GVA, 710,000 jobs, £14bn Treasury revenues, and for every £1 spent on rail, £2.50 is spent in the wider economy. We believe that Transport Secretary Mark Harper's persuasive vision for greater collaboration between the private and public sectors can stimulate growth, reduce taxpayer support and deliver a railway with a commercial mindset that truly puts customers first. This new partnership will unlock innovation and drive down costs, but time is short, and these benefits should not be delayed.

We appreciate that there are many pressures on the Parliamentary timetable, but we urge you to place rail reform front and centre of your programme. Legislation is needed as soon as possible to bring costs and revenues together in one place, something which is essential to the success of any organisation.

As private sector businesses we need certainty on industry structure and responsibilities – this is essential to our collective ability to invest in R&D, innovation, skills, and to recruit the next generation of apprentices and graduates. The GBR legislation will enable us to deliver this, but for this key piece of legislation to be enacted before the next General Election it needs to be tabled soon – otherwise we face a potential further delay of 18 months or more. As industry leaders from private sector businesses – keen to deliver a modern, efficient, railway focused on the needs of passengers and freight – we ask you to ensure the Government tables the necessary legislation to deliver this certainty today.

Yours sincerely,

**Letter Cc-d to:**

Transport Secretary Mark Harper MP  
Rail & HS2 Minister Huw Merriman MP

Abi Broadley, Director, **Abi Broadley Consulting Ltd**  
 Alan Robertson, Chairman, **VolkerWessels UK**  
 Allan Bell, Chief Commercial & Procurement Officer, **British Steel**  
 Amy Jeffs, Managing Director, **Hey Me**  
 Andy Bell, Vice President, **Thales GTS UK**  
 Andy Joy, CEO, **Story Contracting**  
 Andy Chick, Managing Director, **Rail Sense**  
 Antony Kearns, Managing Director, **Rhomberg Sersa UK Ltd**  
 Ben Craze, CEO, **Infinitive Group**  
 Bob Howells, Chairman, **Smart Component Technologies Ltd**  
 Chris Pike, Partner, Sector Director UK Rail, **Arcadis**  
 Chris Rumpfitt, Founder & Chief Executive, **Field Consulting**  
 Colin Johnson, Managing Director, **D/Gauge**  
 Colin Wood, CEO, **AECOM Europe & India**  
 Daniel Saxton, Head of Rail Western Europe, **TÜV Rheinland**  
 Danny Rigby, Managing Director, **Modux**  
 Darren Caplan, CEO, **Railway Industry Association**  
 Darren James, CEO, **Keltbray**  
 Darren Reed, Managing Director Rail, **WSP**  
 Gary Elliott, Managing Director, **Trough-Tec Systems**  
 Grant Harley, General Manager, **Petards Rail**  
 Emily Kent, Co-Founder, **One Big Circle Ltd**  
 Gareth Richardson, Managing Director, **Geismar**  
 James Bain, COO, Worldline; Chair, **Rail Supply Group**  
 James Holmes, Rail Sector Director, **Amey**  
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 Magnus Friberg, CEO, **Icomera Group**  
 Malcolm Wilson, Chair and Founder, **IPEX Consulting**  
 Marcus Allender, Cofounder & Business Development Director, **Window Seater Ltd**  
 Martin Hawley, Managing Director, **SPL Powerlines UK**  
 Mary Kenny, CEO, **Eversholt Rail Ltd**  
 Michael Byng, Managing Director, **MBPC Infrastructure**  
 Mike Carter, General Manager, **Eaton Electrical Products**  
 Neil McNicholas, Managing Director, **Unipart Rail**  
 Nick Crossfield, Managing Director, **Alstom UK&I**  
 Nick Salt, CEO, **Systra**  
 Nina Lockwood, Founder & Director, **Intuitive Interim & Executive Search Ltd**  
 Paul Goodhand, Managing Director, **Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK)**  
 Paul Harrington, General Manager, **Signature Rail**  
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 Roger Bromley, Visiting Professor of Innovation & Collaboration,  
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