



Department
for Transport

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
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Ruth Cadbury MP
Chair, Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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9 September 2026

Dear Ruth,

Railways Bill: Publication of Supporting Products

I am writing to update you and the Committee on two new publications in relation to the Railways Bill, and the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR).

Access and Use Policy Consultation

I would first draw your attention to [Network Rail's Access and Use Policy \(AUP\) consultation](#) that was launched today (9 September). This is a document that will be crucial for providing confidence and certainty for the sector by setting out the process and policies that GBR must undertake when making decisions regarding access to its network. The consultation builds on the AUP Discussion Document published in December 2025 and reflects extensive engagement with regulators, passenger and freight operators, infrastructure managers, and devolved and regional transport bodies.

This document intends to develop the conversation around access reform from purely principle to practical application, testing real-world operability, not just policy intent. The views that are shared in response to this will be critical in finalising the AUP and ensuring our railway has an access system that is coherent, strategic, and delivers for passengers and freight operators up and down the country.

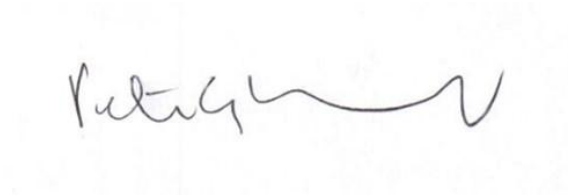
Interim rail freight growth target

The Committee may have also seen that yesterday (8 September) we published a [new interim target](#) for GBR to increase rail freight by at least 40% by 2040. This target is the first milestone towards our wider plan to increase rail freight by at least 75% by 2050, giving industry the confidence to invest and ensuring GBR plays a central role in delivering growth across the country.

The Bill further cements this ambition through a statutory duty to ensure GBR, Ministers and the regulator continue to focus on promoting rail freight.

If you or the Committee would like to discuss any of these in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact my office

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', written over a light blue rectangular stamp.

Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL