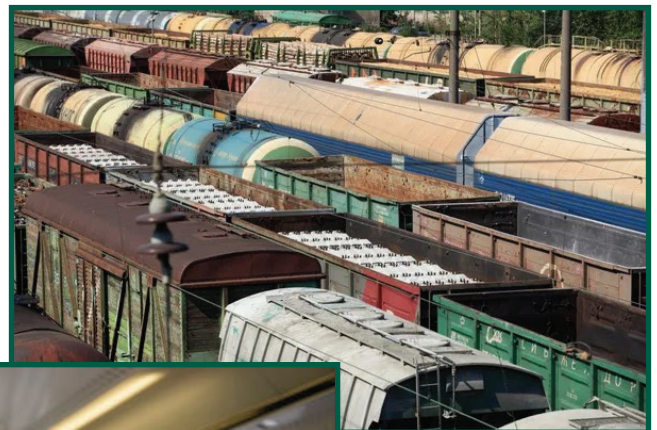
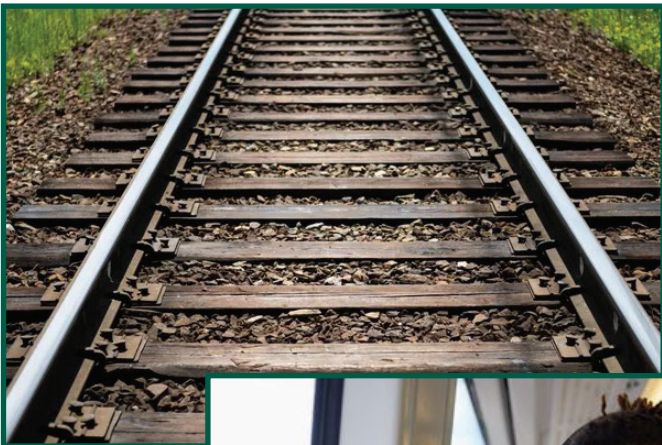




Department
for Transport



A railway fit for Britain's future



About this easy read



This is an easy read of a bigger booklet called **A railway fit for Britain's future**.



This easy read tells you about the main things in the bigger booklet.



This easy read is quite long.
You do not have to read it all at once if you don't want to.



You might want to take a break
or just read the bits you are most
interested in.

What is in this booklet



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About this booklet

The government wants to make some big changes to how the railways are run.



Before this happens, the government must:

- Tell people about the changes

and



- Find out what people think.



Please read this booklet and answer the questions.



You can send your answers by email:
Railreform.bill@dft.gov.uk



Or you can print this booklet and fill in your answers.



Post your answers back to us at:

Rail Sector Transformation
Programme Consultation
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR



We must get your answers by:
Tuesday 15th April 2025.



You can email us if you have any questions:

Railreform.bill@dft.gov.uk

How the railways are run now



Many different organisations run Britain's railways.



Network Rail is an organisation that looks after things like:



- The tracks that trains run on.



- Some stations.



- Bridges and tunnels.



14 other companies run the trains.



Some of them are called:

- Avanti West Coast



- Great Western Railway



- London North Eastern Railway



There are more companies running rail services in Scotland and Wales.

Passenger experience



There are problems with the railway at the moment.



Things like:

- Trains are often late or cancelled.
- Tickets can be confusing for passengers.
- Sometimes people need 2 trains to get to where they are going. The train times don't always match.



This means you might have to wait a long time for the second train.

6 things we want the railways to be:



- **Reliable:** The trains run on time.



- **Affordable:** Tickets are not too expensive.



- **Efficient:** Trains carry lots of passengers using as little money as possible.



- **Good quality:** Trains are comfortable and are easy to use.



- **Accessible:** People with disabilities can use trains easily.



- **Safe:** We want less crime and accidents to happen on the railways.



Our plans

We want 1 organisation to run Britain's railways. It will be called **Great British Railways** and it will:



- Look after most of the tracks, stations, tunnels and bridges.



- Run most of the passenger trains.



- Sell tickets.



- Work with local leaders and the governments in Scotland and Wales.



- Make sure **freight** companies and other companies running passenger trains can use the railways too.

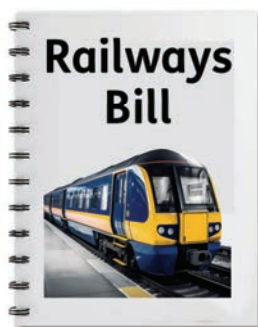


Freight means using trains to move things like food, clothes and machinery.

The law



To make Great British Railways, we need to change the law.



This first step will be the **Railways Bill**. It will tell people about the laws we want to make.



We want to ask you some questions about how Great British Railways will work. Your answers will help us to make the **Railways Bill** better.

The Secretary of State



The questions talk about the **Secretary of State for Transport**.

This person is a senior minister in the UK Government. They are in charge of the Department for Transport.

The Office of Rail and Road



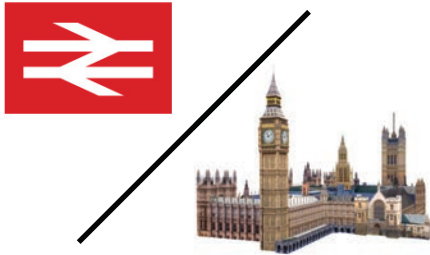
The questions talk about the **Office of Rail and Road**.

This is a **regulator**. A **regulator** is an organisation that makes sure things work in a fair way.



It makes sure that the railways are safe and well-run.

Leadership



Our plan is:

- Great British Railways will run the railways, separate from the government.
- The Secretary of State will set rules that the railways must follow.



The rules are things like making sure passengers are safe and have a good experience.



- The Office of Rail and Road will check that the railways follow the rules.



- The Secretary of State will decide the long-term plan for the railways.



Question 1: Should Great British Railways run Britain's railways, separate from the government?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 2: Should the Secretary of State make the rules that Great British Railways must follow?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 3: Should the Secretary of State decide the long-term plan for the railways?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:

Listening to passengers

Our plan is:



- Make a new **passenger watchdog**. This is an organisation who will listen to passengers and have a say about how they are supported.



- The watchdog could give advice about plans, how to support passengers, and making the railways better.



- It could also help to make sure that the railways are working well for passengers. Things like checking if disabled people can travel easily.



- It could also decide what should happen about some people's complaints. The **Rail Ombudsman** does this at the moment.



Question 4: Do you think it is a good idea to have a passenger watchdog?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 5: What do you think the watchdog should do? This might be things like:

- Collect information and give advice.
- Check the railways is working well for passengers.
- Say what Great British Railways and other companies that run trains should do to support passengers.



Tell us what you think here:



Question 6: Should there be an organisation different to the watchdog which sorts out some people's complaints?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:

Organising trains

Our plan is:



- Great British Railways will decide which trains can run, and when. They will do this in a fair way.



- Update the rules about which trains can use the tracks and when.



For example, deciding when trains can use the tracks and when people can fix the tracks.



- The Office of Rail and Road will be able to check that decisions about access to the railways are fair.



- There are rules about:



- Which trains can run.



- When they can run.



- How much they have to pay.



We want the Secretary of State to be able to make these rules easier.

Question 7: Do you think that Great British Railways should decide:



- Which trains can use the tracks and when?



- How much train companies have to pay to use the tracks?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 8: Should we update the rules about which trains can use the tracks?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 9: Great British Railways will make decisions about which trains can use the tracks.



Should the Office of Rail and Road check these decisions are fair?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 10: Could there be problems if:

- Great British Railways decide which trains can use some tracks?

and

- The Office of Rail and Road decide which trains can use other tracks?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 11: Should the Secretary of State be able to make the rules easier about:



- Which trains can run?
- When they can run?
- How much they have to pay?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:

Money from the government

Our plan is:



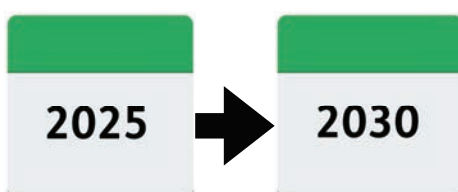
- The long-term plan for Great British Railways will be set by the Secretary of State. This is called a **strategy**.



- Great British Railways will read the strategy.



Then they will write a plan about how they will do the things in the strategy. This plan is called a **business plan**.



It will say how they will do these things over the next 5 years. This plan is very important.



- The Office of Rail and Road will check the business plan.



- The Secretary of State will decide how much money Great British Railways will need to run the railways in England and Wales.



- The Scottish Government will look at the business plan too. They will decide how much money Great British Railways need in Scotland.



- The Secretary of State and the Scottish Government will be able to change things if they need to.



Question 12: Should how much money Great British Railways gets be decided in this way?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:

Tickets

Our plan is:

- Great British Railways will decide how much train tickets will cost. This will just be on the trains that they run.



- The Secretary of State will make sure train tickets don't cost too much. This would be on trains that Great British Railway runs.



- There will still be railcards, so some people can pay less for tickets.
For example, young people, disabled people and older people.



- Great British Railways will sell tickets in the same places they are sold now.



- Other companies will also sell tickets.



Question 13: Do you think that the Secretary of State should check that:

- Train tickets do not cost too much?



- People can still get railcards?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 14: When Great British Railways and other companies sell train tickets, what rules should they have to follow?



Tell us more here:

Working with the Welsh and Scottish governments and mayors



There will still be other rail organisations involved in Britain's rail network.

For example:



- Scotrail in Scotland



- Transport for Wales



- Transport for London



The Scottish and Welsh governments and local leaders will make sure that transport in their area is working well.



Great British Railways and the Secretary of State will work with the governments and local leaders.

Question 15: We must try to do both of these things:



- Great British Railways working closely with local leaders.



- Great British Railways deciding how to run the railways it is in charge of.

Do you think this will work?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 16: The **Scottish Government** gives money to Scotrail and other rail services.



Should the UK Government and Scottish Government work together on plans and funding for the railways in Scotland?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 17: The Welsh

Government gives money to Transport for Wales. It owns the Core Valley Lines in South Wales.



Should the UK Government and Welsh Government work together on plans and funding for the railways in Wales?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 18: English mayors
oversee all types of transport in their
local areas.

A **mayor** leads a city like Manchester
or London.



Should Great British Railways and
English mayors work together on
plans for the railways in their local
area?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Train driver licences

Train drivers must have a licence. Drivers must do training and pass exams to get their licence.



The rules for training, exams and getting a licence will need to be updated over time.



Right now, the Secretary of State is not able to update these rules.



Our plan is:

- We want to let the Secretary of State make changes to these rules in the future.



Before this happens, the government will:

- Tell people about the changes

and



- Find out what people think about them.



The Secretary of State would be able to update the rules.



Question 19: Should the Secretary of State be able to update the rules about train driver licences?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Tell us more here:



Question 20: Tell us about any other ways that our plans for the railways may affect you.



Tell us more here:

About you



We may want to find out more about what you think. Please tell us how to contact you.



You do not have to give us this information.



Your name:



Your email address:



Your postal address:

The image shows a laptop screen displaying the GOV.UK website. The browser address bar shows 'gov.uk'. The page title is 'DfT online forms, surveys and consultations privacy notice'. The page content includes a blue header with the text 'Corporate report' and 'DfT online forms, surveys and consultations privacy notice'. Below this is a section titled 'Contents'.

**[www.gov.uk/government/
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