

# PRESS RELEASE



16 September 2016

## **GB Railfreight welcomes the Government's new Rail Freight Strategy**

GB Railfreight (GBRf) today welcomes the Government's new Rail Freight Strategy, which sets out its vision for the rail freight industry over the next thirty years and what is ultimately required in order for this vision to be delivered.

The Strategy was formed as a result of close engagement between the Department for Transport, Network Rail, the freight operators, including GBRf, and its customers. For this reason, the report describes itself as a “shared” vision.

In response to its publication, Managing Director for GB Railfreight John Smith commented:

*“We welcome the Government’s renewed ambition to tackle some of the challenges facing the rail freight industry, following the decline of core commodities such as coal and steel.*

*“Opportunities for growth exist in alternative core commodity markets such as intermodal and aggregates, but we need to ensure that investment is made and decisions taken to increase freight capacity and capability on the network.*

*“This report focuses on all the right things, highlighting areas where progress can and should be made. This includes strengthening strategic capacity for freight, reducing dwell times and improving velocity.*

*“As we move forward with PR18 discussions, we need to ensure that these suggested actions are taken on-board and a more stable and competitive environment provided for freight.”*