

NEWS RELEASE



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RIA WELCOMES FORMER CHANCELLOR'S CALLS FOR NORTHERN POWERHOUSE RAIL

The Railway Industry Association (RIA) threw its weight behind calls today by former Chancellor George Osborne for the Government to back HS3, as the Northern Powerhouse Partnership launched a campaign for the new-high speed connection, starting with a line across the Pennines.

Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry Association (RIA) said: "In the recent Queen's Speech the Government initially refused to commit to both Crossrail 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail, or HS3. It has since announced support for Crossrail 2 - a move that the Railway Industry Association fully backs - and we now strongly urge them do the same for Northern Powerhouse Rail, another major transport infrastructure scheme which will benefit the whole country.

"Today's campaign launch by the Northern Powerhouse Partnership is another reminder that major schemes like this provide wider benefits not just to one part of the country – in this case, the North of England – but also to the national economy and our connectivity, as the UK becomes Brexit-ready in the years ahead. "

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. The Railway Industry Association is the long-established trade association for the UK railway supply industry. Its member companies include manufacturers, maintainers, contractors, consultants and suppliers of specialist services. For further information, see our website at www.riagb.org.uk/ or us on 020 7201 0777.

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