

NEWS RELEASE



21 June 2017

Railway Industry Association

22 Headfort Place
London SW1X 7RY
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7201 0777

E-mail: ria@riagb.org.uk
www.riagb.org.uk

RAIL INDUSTRY: HS2 PROGRESS WELCOME BUT ABSENCE OF CROSSRAIL 2 & NORTHERN POWERHOUSE RAIL COMMITMENT A CONCERN

Responding to the Queen's Speech today, Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry Association (RIA), said:

"The Railway Industry Association welcomes the Government's commitment to transport infrastructure, which is crucial to the UK's economy and connectivity.

"We support today's announcement bringing forward further legislation on High Speed 2, which will deliver clear improvements and increase overall capacity for passengers and freight and which will see new rolling stock introduced and stations upgraded.

"However, we are concerned about the lack of commitment to Crossrail 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (or HS3) in the Queen's Speech. Rail infrastructure needs to be improved throughout the whole of the UK and major schemes like these provide wider benefits not just to those parts of the country they serve but also to the national economy; and they are essential to helping Britain become Brexit-ready in the years to come.

"We urge the Government to give a green light to both Crossrail 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail as infrastructure projects crucial to the future success of UK plc, and to do this quickly."

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.

Ref 586/A1696