



The Railway Forum

Press Release

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17 June 2004

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For immediate use

RAILWAY FORUM LAUNCHES *BUILDING THE RAILWAY FOR THE FUTURE 2004*

THIS YEAR'S PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- *COST AND PERFORMANCE: TURNING THE CORNER*
- *TRANSPORT 2015: A NEW 10 YEAR PLAN FOR TRANSPORT*
- DR RANA ROY'S CRITIQUE ON TAX AND INVESTMENT: *NOT BY SPENDING ALONE: THE CASE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TAX REVIEW*

Today The Railway Forum launches its *Building the railway for the future* package for 2004. This year it comprises three elements:

- an information sheet assessing the industry's cost and performance record over the last 12 months. Signs of solid progress are increasingly evident but as the title of the paper, *Turning the Corner*, indicates there is still more to do
- an information sheet on the issues that the Forum believes should be included in the revised 10 Year Plan for Transport that the Department for Transport is expected to publish next month. The next decade will be one of the most exciting and challenging periods for all sectors of the transport industry and we are calling

for Government planning to reflect this and define the long-term issues that need to be addressed

- the last in a series of influential papers on taxation and investment policies and their implications for transport by Dr Rana Roy entitled *Not By Spending Alone: The Case For A Comprehensive Tax Review*.

'The industry is at a pivotal stage in its development', said Adrian Lyons, Director General, The Railway Forum. 'Our *Building the railway for the future* package for 2004 covers three key areas. Firstly we need to show how we are getting cost and performance under control. I am confident we have turned the corner but there is still much to do. Secondly we must ensure that we have the right long-term strategies in place and, thirdly, taxation and investment policies must enable railways to contribute to maximum effect. We need to get both the short and long term right and manage them better than we have done in the past. These are huge challenges'.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

1. All publications in the *Building the railway for the future* 2004 package are available at: www.railwayforum.com.
2. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies, Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, London Underground, most of the infrastructure maintenance companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have over 50 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry.

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