



*The Railway Forum*

## ***Press Release***

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# **'WE'VE GOT THE FASTEST GROWING RAILWAY IN EUROPE – LET'S NOT LOSE MOMENTUM' SAYS FORUM**

As the General Election campaign starts in earnest today The Railway Forum looks back at how far Britain's railways have come since the 2001 election.

Four years ago we were only just emerging from the Hatfield accident and its aftermath. Much has happened since, including the collapse of Railtrack and its replacement with Network Rail. After a number of setbacks a great deal of ground has been made up and in terms of passenger demand progress has been exceptional. Railways are now growing faster than other modes of transport: since 1994 passenger kilometres travelled on national rail have risen faster in every year (with the exception of 2000-2002, post-Hatfield) than passenger kilometres travelled by road\*. Rail freight (measured in tonne kilometres) has also increased by over 40% since 1995/6.

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\* indexed to 1990

'Of course we face the pressing challenges to reduce cost and improve performance however these are as much a result of recent success as anything else', says Adrian Lyons, Director General of The Railway Forum. 'At the time of the last Election our industry was being written off by many but fundamental and positive changes have occurred since then. We urge all political parties to support Britain's railways and our millions of customers. The railways have shown they can reverse decades of decline, now is the time to capitalise on this and maintain the momentum we have built up.'

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#### Notes to Editors:

1. 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. Other complementary railway industry bodies including The Railway Industry Association and ATOC are also 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.
2. On 13 April The Railway Forum will issue its fifth annual *Building the Railway for the Future* package of publications. This will comprise *A successful future for the fastest growing railway in Europe*, a 'manifesto' for Britain's railways and *Cost & performance: sustaining confidence in the long term*, a 2005 update on cost and performance trends. Both publications will be available from [www.railwayforum.com](http://www.railwayforum.com)
3. Data on rail and transport growth can be obtained from the Department for Transport at: [www.dft.gov.uk/transtat](http://www.dft.gov.uk/transtat)

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