



The Railway Forum

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For immediate use

'WE HAVE A NEW BLUEPRINT – LET'S MAKE IT WORK' SAYS THE RAILWAY FORUM

The Future of Rail White Paper published today outlines a wide-ranging package of changes to both the public and private sectors of the railways and clearly represents a very considerable commitment by the Government to ensure that this vital national asset remains best positioned to meet our customers' needs today and tomorrow.

The Railway Forum acknowledges the exhaustive process of consultation undertaken by the Department for Transport and in particular the way in which Alistair Darling PC MP and Kim Howells MP have fully engaged with the industry to find out what is needed to do the job better.

The industry, in turn, has risen to this challenge and there has been a positive and well-informed debate over present priorities and future needs.

'After six months of intensive effort we now have a new model,' says Adrian Lyons, Director General of The Railway Forum.

Continues...

'It brings with it major change affecting all parts of the industry. Moving to the new structure will require total cross-industry commitment while still ensuring that we are not deflected from the relentless programme to reduce cost and improve performance. I am certain we are up to the challenge!'

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

1. A press release noting that Richard Bowker is stepping down from the SRA is also released today.
2. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies as well as 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 some 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.

For more information call:

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