

PRESS RELEASE



11 September 2013

More recognition of economic value of rail freight needed in HS2 debate, says leading freight company

Commenting on HS2 Ltd's publication of its report by KPMG today, John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, said:

"The Government has given considerable attention to the impact that HS2 will have on rail passengers but not enough time and energy has been spent considering the economic value of rail freight in the debate. Today's report by KPMG is very welcome as an important step in recognising the wider benefits of the high-speed network.

"By freeing up rail freight capacity on the West Coast Main Line, HS2 has the potential to radically transform the volume of goods moved around the country, resulting in a much-needed increase in UK productivity, an energetic growth in our exports market and relief for our congested road system.

"GB Railfreight calls on Network Rail to give equal attention to the opportunity for rail freight as for passenger trains when considering the allocation of the released capacity from HS2, and on the Government to consider the opportunity for rail freight as part of the overall business case."