

PRESS RELEASE



16 December 2013

GB Railfreight responds to ORR quarterly freight statistics

In response to the ORR's 2013-14 Quarter 2 Statistical Release on freight rail usage, John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, said:

"GB Railfreight welcomes these latest quarterly figures from the ORR that show an 8.9% rise in rail freight moved on last year. It's important that the Government recognises the contribution the rail freight sector makes to regional and national economic growth and creates an environment that allows it to continue to expand.

"These figures are also interesting because they illustrate the rapid economic expansion experienced across the rail freight sector, despite capacity constraints on the network. Since privatisation, the story of rail freight has been one of great success, with growth of up to 60% in 20 years.

"GB Railfreight, in particular, embodies this success, having developed from a company of just two employees and zero contracts in 1999, to one with a turnover in excess of £100 million. In 2014, we will be looking to expand and further develop our bulk materials, intermodal, railways infrastructure and rail industry services businesses."

Notes to editors:

1. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) published their 2013-14 Quarter 2 Statistical Release on freight rail usage on 12 December, 2013.
2. GB Railfreight is one of the UK's leading rail freight companies. It operates around 650 trains per week in the UK and is the main transporter of coal on the rail network and the only rail freight company with regular contracts to move biomass.