

Railfuture Priorities

Q1. How will your government ensure that both passenger and freight rail users are put first in future?

A1: We will ensure there are enough people, trains, infrastructure and systems to deliver the published timetable all day, every day. <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1906>

Q2. How will your government attract more passengers to use rail?

A2. On 16 August, the inflation data that forms the basis for the 2025 rail fare rise will be announced. We promise to base that rail fare rise on CPI and set it at, or less than, CPI. <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Fares-and-Tickets-Focus-areas>

Q3. How will your government use rail to help meet UK carbon reduction targets?

A3. We will set a target of at least doubling rail freight in 20 years and promote modal shift of both freight and passengers to rail by extending road user charging, creating a 'level playing field' between modes so that each carries its social and environmental costs. <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1910>

Q4. How will your government simplify the rail industry to improve accountability and reduce costs?

A4. We will set the strategic objectives for a professional rail body which will take decisions away from ministers and civil servants. It will have bottom-line accountability and authority over resource and service levels, so that the right trade-offs are made between revenue, cost, risk and improving service to passengers. We will publish an investment pipeline to maximise value from investment. We have marked the party manifestos at <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1911#threadId478>.

Q5. How will your government ensure that rail provides value for money to taxpayers while improving the quality of rail services?

A5: We will focus on a proper balance between what users pay and the wider social value of the railway supported by the taxpayer. All investment will be prioritised on the basis of achieving that proper balance. <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1911#threadId479>

Q6. How will your government maximise the opportunities for rail to support economic growth, provide access to employment and education, and improve health and social inclusion?

A6. We see rail as part of the solution to three of the really key issues facing the UK: declining health, climate change and the cost of living. We value public transport and freight on rail, so will strive for a modal shift which will have a positive impact on health, climate change, social inclusion and the economy. <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1911#threadId480>