

UNION CONNECTIVITY

These are Railfuture's top 10 rail priorities to enhance Union connectivity. This priority list has been sent to Sir Peter Hendy, Chairman of Network Rail, who has been charged by government with the Union Connectivity review.

Priority	Title	Description	Service potential
1	HS2-Western leg to NW England and Scotland	London Euston/Old Oak Common, Birmingham Interchange via the West Coast Main Line to Glasgow and Edinburgh with through services to the seven Scottish cities Includes new HS2 sections through the Lake District and north of Gretna Junction to near Carstairs	London/Birmingham Interchange to Scotland HS2 service Birmingham Curzon St to Scotland service Manchester/Liverpool to Glasgow/Edinburgh HS2 service Integrated plan to directly serve Scottish 7 Cities
2	North Wales Coast upgrade	Electrification and upgrade from Crewe to Holyhead/Llandudno Provides for HS2 and WCML conventional through services to Chester and North Wales	London/Birmingham to Chester and North Wales, mixed HS2/WCML service
3	South Wales Main Line upgrade	Electrification from Cardiff to Swansea, Llanelli and Carmarthen includes electrification of Bristol to Bristol Parkway/Patchway Provides for increased resilience of the South Wales Main Line	London to South Wales electric service Bristol to Swansea electric service
4	South Wales to England	Electrification from Newport to Gloucester and Birmingham and provision of new Severn crossing Provides for increased resilience of the South Wales Main Line	South Wales to Birmingham and Manchester electric service Cardiff to Gloucester local electric service Bristol/Cardiff to Scotland WCML electric service
5	Chester to Warrington upgrade	Electrification Provides for electric services from North Wales to Manchester and to the WCML northwards from Warrington	Holyhead/Llandudno to Manchester electric service
6	Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury upgrade	Electrification to Shrewsbury Core WCML non HS2 service Euston to Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Provides for bimode service London to Aberystwyth	London and Birmingham to Shrewsbury electric service.
7	Borders Line, upgrade and extension	Edinburgh to Carlisle Edinburgh to Tweedbank, capacity upgrade and electrification, new electric line to Carlisle	Edinburgh to Carlisle service
8	East Coast Main Line/ Northern Powerhouse Rail	Edinburgh to Newcastle limited upgrade	Edinburgh to Newcastle-Regional Edinburgh to Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool
9	Northern Ireland*	Comprehensive air/rail service to Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland	<i>Belfast-Birmingham air</i> - HS2 to West Midlands/ Wales and London <i>Belfast-Manchester Airport air</i> - HS2 NPR link to Manchester, Leeds and NE England <i>Belfast Glasgow/Sirports air</i> - Rail links from Glasgow and Edinburgh airports
10	Union Freight (including Northern Ireland)*	Freight capacity to Scotland increased by scheme 1 Freight capacity to South Wales (from Midlands) increased by scheme 4 Reestablishment of intermodal freight link to Belfast* via Holyhead facilitated by schemes 2 and 5 <i>* probably more viable if integrated with an EU scheme to link with Dublin</i>	Scotland to Belfast intermodal Trafford Park to Belfast intermodal (all electrically operated) Daventry/West Midlands to Belfast intermodal <i>including linkages with Felixstowe, Thames Ports, Southampton and Channel Tunnel</i>