

## Insights

# GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS: THE WILLIAMS-SHAPPS PLAN FOR RAIL – THE NUMBERS THAT TELL THE STORY

May 24, 2021

On 20 May 2021, the government published its white paper for the railways in Britain after an 18-month delay due to the pandemic – ‘Great British Railways: The Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail’ (the Plan). The government dubs it the biggest change to the railways in 25 years. The Plan promises 10 outcomes achieved through meeting 62 commitments. At this early stage, the BCLP rail team pick out some of the numbers and statistics from the Plan to trace the thread behind the government’s thinking, and offer some initial analysis.

Some key statistics include:

- **£12 billion** spent keeping trains running during pandemic;
- rail makes up more than **50%** of public spending on transport;
- passenger numbers only back to **35%** of pre-COVID levels;
- only **47%** of passengers feel journey value for money;
- $\frac{2}{3}$  of passenger use facing permanent change;
- almost **400** full-time staff employed to argue about delays;
- railways matter, road traffic around **90%** of pre-pandemic levels;
- **1** guiding mind for the railways with a **30-year** strategy; and
- **£1.5 billion** of savings p. a. available if industry simplified and efficiencies achieved.

View the full analysis [here](#).

## RELATED CAPABILITIES

- Transport & Asset Finance

- Infrastructure

## MEET THE TEAM



### Jason Chamberlain

London

[jason.chamberlain@bclplaw.com](mailto:jason.chamberlain@bclplaw.com)

[+44 \(0\) 20 3400 2114](tel:+442034002114)

---

This material is not comprehensive, is for informational purposes only, and is not legal advice. Your use or receipt of this material does not create an attorney-client relationship between us. If you require legal advice, you should consult an attorney regarding your particular circumstances. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. This material may be “Attorney Advertising” under the ethics and professional rules of certain jurisdictions. For advertising purposes, St. Louis, Missouri, is designated BCLP’s principal office and Kathrine Dixon ([kathrine.dixon@bclplaw.com](mailto:kathrine.dixon@bclplaw.com)) as the responsible attorney.