

Insights

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

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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](#).

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MEET THE TEAM



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