**ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring**

**December 2018**

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

**Key dates:**

Brexit meaningful vote – scheduled for 11 December, postponed and now expected on 15 January 2019

Recess:

Christmas: 20 December – 7 January

February 14 - February 25

Spring Statement TBC

**Planning – Housing**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 07/12 | Press Release | HoL | Housing Minister Kit Malthouse to face Lords’ questions on delivering generational fairness in housing provision. [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/media-centre/house-of-lords-media-notices/house-of-lords-media-notices---2018/december-2018/housing-minister-kit-malthouse-to-face-lords-questions-on-delivering-generational-fairness-in-housing-provision/)  |

**Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 3/12 | Written Q&A | BEIS | Energy: Hydrogen:Written question - [195611](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195611)Asked by [**Anna Turley**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/anna-turley/4449)To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the progress by local authorities on supporting development and implementation of hydrogen conversion technology in their local area. Answered by: [**Claire Perry**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/claire-perry/3974)The Department has not made a formal assessment of the progress that that Local Authorities have made in supporting the development and implementation of hydrogen conversion technology. However, in the course of work to understand how the UK can move to low carbon heating and the potential role of hydrogen in the wider energy system, my officials and I have met with a range of national, regional and local stakeholders.Our engagement has taken a number of forms - bilateral engagement, roundtables, conferences and workshops - and has included engagement with, among others: Scottish Government, Welsh Government, the Tees Valley Combined Authority, Liverpool City Region, Swindon Council, Swindon and Wiltshire LEP, Cheshire and Warrington LEP, and Greater London Authority. |
| 3/12 | Press Release | BEIS | Local Industrial Strategies to drive growth across the country. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-industrial-strategies-to-drive-growth-across-the-country).  |
| 10/12 | Press Release | LEP Network | **UK Aerospace sector to work closer with LEPs as part of modern Industrial Strategy sector deal**The government has published its UK Aerospace Sector Deal marking the first anniversary of the modern Industrial Strategy white paper. The deal encourages the UK's Aerospace sector to work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to deliver LEPs local industrial strategies. [Read here](https://www.lepnetwork.net/news-and-events/2018/december/uk-aerospace-sector-to-work-closer-with-leps-as-part-of-modern-industrial-strategy-sector-deal/).  |
| 11/12 | Written Q&A | Treasury | Industry: Written question - [908143](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/908143)Asked by [**Neil O'Brien**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/neil-o%27brien/4679)What progress has been made on the creation of local industrial strategies. Answered by: [**Robert Jenrick**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/robert-jenrick/4320)We will work with all Local Enterprise Partnerships and Mayoral Combined Authorities across England to develop Local Industrial Strategies.We have already been working with Greater Manchester, West Midlands, and partners across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc to develop ‘trailblazer’ Local Industrial Strategies, which we expect to be completed in the first half of next year.We will then be working with a second ‘wave’ of places including the Leicester & Leicestershire LEP that covers Harborough. |
| 18/12 | Press Release | Renewable Energy Association  | Government’s Feed-in Tariff Export tariff decision damaging for renewable industry. [Read here.](https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/8e280094ef834fda89b1467c2a394496) Full Government Response can be accessed [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765647/FIT_Closure_Government_Response.pdf) |
| 03/01 | Press Release | MHCLG | James Brokenshire announces locations of UK’s first Manufacturing Zones in the East Midlands. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-announces-locations-of-uks-first-manufacturing-zones-in-the-east-midlands)  |
| 02/01 | Press Release | BEIS | Robots to fix underground pipes and help cut roadworks. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/robots-to-fix-underground-pipes-and-help-cut-roadworks) |
| 04/01 | Press Release | Companies House | A helping hand to set up new businesses. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-helping-hand-to-set-up-new-businesses)  |

**NPPF – Land value capture**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 11/12 | Oral Answers | HCLG | Scott Mann (North Cornwall) (Con)What his policy is on land value capture. [908086].Full Answer [here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-12-10/debates/FEE7E926-4CC1-4A96-934E-76059320606B/LandValueCapture). |
| 29/11  | Press Release | HCLG | HCLG Committee renews calls for meaningful action on land value capture. [Read here.](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/news/land-value-government-response-published-17-19/)  |

**Energy – Local Authority projects**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates |

**Digital – broadband & mobile**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Economy – Fair funding review**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 13/12 | Press Release | HCLG | Consultation Update: Fair funding review: a review of relative needs and resources[. Read here.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764501/Needs_and_Resources_Technical_Consultation_Response.pdf)  |
| 20/12 | Papers | HoC | Reviewing and reforming local government finance. [Read here.](https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7538)  |

**Transport – Investment strategy**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 11/12 | Written Q&A | Treasury | Transport: Infrastructure:Written question - [199787](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-06/199787)Asked by [**Liam Byrne**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/liam-byrne/1171)To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much the UK spent as a proportion of GDP on transport infrastructure in 2017-18; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the proportion of UK GDP spent on transport infrastructure compared with the average proportion spent by (a) the G7 and (b) the EU. Answered by: [**Elizabeth Truss**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/elizabeth-truss/4097)In 2017-18, the UK’s public sector expenditure was £20.5 billion on transport capital investment. This is roughly 1% of GDP – a 0.25 percentage point increase on 4 years ago.Reliable international comparisons for transport infrastructure spend are difficult due to data availability. Within the UK, the devolved administrations also have responsibilities for transport investment.However, this government is building on this investment with the £28.8 billion National Roads Fund announced at Budget to invest in English roads, £47.9 billion for the railway in England and Wales in Control Period 6 and undertaking one of the largest engineering projects in Europe – HS2. |
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**Transport – Major road network**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 6/12 | Press Release | Transport Focus | Tunnels – what do road users want?Transport Focus, working with Highways England, has published new research into how road users experience tunnels and what they want from future designs. Full press release [here](https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/news-events-media/news/tunnels-road-users-want/).Report can be accessed [here](https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research-publications/publications/tunnel-vision-road-users-experiences-expectations-tunnels/). |
| 11/12 | Written Q&A | Treasury | A303 and Lower Thames Crossing: Private Finance Initiative:Written question - [199867](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-06/199867)Asked by [**Stella Creasy**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/stella-creasy/4088)To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 23 November to Question 188205, what range of models involving investment in infrastructure his Department plans to use to meet the proposals set out in the 2017 National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline. Answered by: [**Robert Jenrick**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/robert-jenrick/4320)The National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline has been updated for 2018 and was published on the 26 November. This sets out planned and projected investment of over £600 billion over the next decade.The UK uses a mixed model, using both public and private investment, to fund and finance its infrastructure.Funding and financing arrangements for individual projects and programmes are outlined in the pipeline spreadsheet. |
| 11/12 | Press Release | Highways England | **Milestone for A585 bypass plan.**  [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/milestone-for-a585-bypass-plan).  |
| 20/12 | Press Release | Campaining for Better Transport  | Campaign for Better Transport's response to the Major Road Network announcement. [Read here.](https://bettertransport.org.uk/media/21/december/2018/major-roads-network)  |
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**Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) - (TfN, TfSE)**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
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**Transport – Automated** **electric vehicle bills**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
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**Transport – Rail**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 3/12 | Press Release | Stop HS2 | Government to Sack HS2 Chair Terry Morgan After Just 4 Months. [Read here](http://stophs2.org/news/17714-government-sack-hs2-chair-morgan-4-months).  |
| 3/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | Railways:Written question - [HL11549](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-19/HL11549)Asked by [**Lord Berkeley**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-berkeley/3526)To ask Her Majesty's Government how many market-led proposals have been received for possible rail line reopening; whether they will publish the list of any such proposals; and when they will announce the next stage for them. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)The department has received 30 responses to its call for ideas for market-led proposals to enhance the railway, which it launched in March this year. These submissions covered a wide range of railway enhancements. The department cannot make an announcement about individual schemes at this time as these proposals were submitted in confidence and such disclosure may prejudice the commercial interests of the proposers. Individual promoters will be contacted later this year where the appropriate next steps will be discussed. |
| 3/12 | Press Release | Govia Thameslink Railway | GTR on track with projects to deliver more accessible railway. [Read here](https://www.railbusinessdaily.com/gtr-on-track-with-projects-to-deliver-more-accessible-railway/).  |
| 3/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | High Speed 2 Railway Line:Written question - [196827](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196827)Asked by [**Tulip Siddiq**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/tulip-siddiq/4518)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has had discussions with HS2 Ltd on the use of target cost contracts instead of geotechnical baseline reports; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the level of compensation arising from damage to vulnerable buildings along the High Speed Two construction route of excluding the use of those reports. Answered by: [**Ms Nusrat Ghani**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ms-nusrat-ghani/4460)The actual geotechnical parameters from HS2 project ground investigations have been and are being used for the assessment of buildings impacted by the works. Geotechnical baseline reports (GBR) are not precluded by target cost contracts however their use is not considered relevant for the assessment of the impact of potential ground movement on buildings or associated compensation. |
| 4/12 | Written Ministerial Statement | DfT | **DfT: Rail Update**The Department for Transport has published a Written Ministerial Statement on Rail. [Read here.](http://orr.gov.uk/rail/consumers/inquiry-into-may-2018-network-disruption)  |
| 4/12 | Statistics | DfT | **Rail factsheet: 2018**Department for Transport has published Rail factsheet: 2018 The rail factsheet for 2018 provides an overview of key statistics on National Rail in Great Britain. These statistics relate to the National Rail network, so do not include underground, light rail and tram systems. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rail-factsheet-2018)  |
| 4/12 | Statistics | ORR | **Rail statistics compendium: 2017 to 2018**Office of Rail and Road has published Rail statistics compendium: 2017 to 2018 Annual summary publication.[Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rail-statistics-compendium-2017-to-2018). |
| 4/12 | Written Q&A | HoC | Railways: North West:Written question - [195500](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195500)Asked by [**Frank Field**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/frank-field/478)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government is taking to increase rail investment in the North West of England. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)We are delivering a comprehensive upgrade of the railway network across the North West that will modernise the infrastructure, improve stations, provide new trains, more seats, more services and reduced journey times. Northern and Trans Pennine Express will deliver space for an extra 40,000 passengers and more than 2,000 extra services a week. All their trains will be brand new or completely refurbished, and all the Pacer trains will be gone.We are planning to invest nearly £3bn upgrading the Trans Pennine route that will deliver improvements for passengers across the north including Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle. This is one third of our expected investment in rail upgrades between 2019 and 2024, and our biggest planned investment project on the existing railway in the next five years.The Government is also committed to developing Northern Powerhouse Rail - we have given Transport for the North £60m to develop proposals for the scheme, alongside £300m to ensure HS2 can accommodate future NPR services. At Budget 2018 we announced a further £37m for next year to continue to develop the scheme. |
| 4/12 | Written Q&A | HoC | Railway Stations: Disability:Written question - [197394](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-29/197394)Asked by [**Graham P Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/graham-p-jones/3999)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the time required for all train stations in England and Wales to have step free access at the current pace of works funded by the Access for All funding scheme. Answered by: [**Ms Nusrat Ghani**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ms-nusrat-ghani/4460)Answered on: 04 December 2018It is this Government which is giving funding to continue the Access for All programme into the 2019 to 2024 period. Around 75% of rail journeys in the UK now have step free access to and between every platform, which compares with only 50% of journeys in 2005. |
| 5/12 | Oral Answer | HoL | Rail Franchise Agreements. Asked byLord Greaves To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements are included in rail franchise agreements for operators to provide information, assistance and support to passengers when trains do not arrive, or terminate before reaching their final destinations. [Read here.](https://app.dodsinformation.com/ui/app/index.html#/document/view/1844f385a3e44c62a1a00c8a7953c947)  |
| 6/12 | Debate | HoC | South Western Railway Franchise. Full discussion [here](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-12-05/debates/EDFBDE51-C03B-49D7-A790-40C4CA9CA0D7/SouthWesternRailwayFranchise).  |
| 6/12 | Press Release | DfT | Crossrail and HS2 Chairman steps down. [Read here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crossrail-and-hs2-chairman-steps-down).  |
| 6/12 | Statistics | ORR | **Passenger and freight rail performance: July to September 2018**ORR has published statistics on passenger and freight rail performance in Great Britain with the latest data referring to 1 July to 30 September 2018:  [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/passenger-and-freight-rail-performance-july-to-september-2018) |
| 6/12 | Written ministerial Statement | DfT | **DoT: Rail Update**The Department of Transport has published a written statement 'Rail Update'.The aim of this sector deal is to develop new, digital capabilities to support the railway in becoming an even stronger driver of economic growth and opportunity. [Read here](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-12-06/HCWS1148/). |
| 7/12 | Press Release | ORR | **ORR lays out timetable recommendations to improve service for passengers.** [Read here](https://press.which.co.uk/whichstatements/which-responds-to-orrs-timetable-inquiry-final-report/). |
| 10/12 | Written Ministerial statement | DfT | **DfT: Rail Update**The Government, the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) have today 10 December 2018 confirmed a financing package to deliver the final stages of the Crossrail project and open the Elizabeth line to passengers. [Read here](he%20Government%2C%20the%20Mayor%20of%20London%20and%20Transport%20for%20London%20%28TfL%29%20have%20today%2010%20December%202018%20confirmed%20a%20financing%20package%20to%20deliver%20the%20final%20stages%20of%20the%20Crossrail%20project%20and%20open%20the%20Elizabeth%20line%20to%20passengers.). |
| 11/12 | Press Release | TSSA | **Cortes Calls for Crossrail Urgent Inquiry.**  [Read here](https://www.tssa.org.uk/en/whats-new/news/index.cfm/cortes-calls-for-crossrail-urgent-inquiry). |
| 11/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | Railways: Tickets:Written question - [198331](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-03/198331)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many train operating companies offer (a) paper and (b) mobile barcode tickets to all destinations on the rail network. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)The Government’s goal, set out last year in “Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail”, is to make smart ticketing available across almost all the network by the end of this year. The rail industry is on track to deliver a smart card or barcode option that passengers can choose to use for singles, returns and seasons on journeys across almost all of the rail network by the end of the year. |
| 11/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | Rail Review:Written question - [198222](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-03/198222)Asked by [**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Williams rail review will include an assessment of HS2; and what assessment he has made of the optimum rail industry structure to ensure that HS2 benefits the entire railway network. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)As set out in the Williams Rail Review terms of reference announced by the Secretary of State on 11th October, the Review’s remit does not include assessing the specific infrastructure and services that should be provided by the railway. It is therefore not reconsidering public investment decisions made through existing franchise agreements, Control Period 6 commitments, High Speed 2 (HS2) and other major projects.The Review will consider and make recommendations about which structures and commercial models will best serve the current and future railway, including ensuring the benefits from HS2 and other major rail projects are fully captured. |
| 12/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Govia Thameslink Railway: Franchises:Written question -** [**200065**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200065)Asked by [**Joan Ryan**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/joan-ryan/166)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to transfer commuter rail services to Transport for London as proposed in Chris Gibb's independent report to the Department for Transport on the Govia Thameslink Railway franchise. Answered by: [**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)Building on the Strategic Vision for Rail, the Department is actively considering the future of the TSGN franchise. It is doing this working closely with the Williams Rail Review, which, as part of its work, is examining the most appropriate organisational and commercial models for the future railway. This work is at an early stage and nothing is off the table. |
| 12/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | **High Speed 2 Railway Line: Sheffield:Written question -** [**200087**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200087)Asked by [**Mr Clive Betts**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/mr-clive-betts/394)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the planned timeframe is for the commencement of High Speed Two services to Sheffield. Answered by: [**Ms Nusrat Ghani**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ms-nusrat-ghani/4460)HS2 services will commence in 2033. A construction timeline for this section of route will be reported in the Environmental Statement, as part of the hybrid Bill deposit in 2020. |
| 13/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Great Western Railway: Subsidies:Written question -** [**HL11927**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-29/HL11927)Asked by [**Lord Bradshaw**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bradshaw/2483)To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are providing a subsidy to Great Western Railway; if so, why; and what lessons they have learned. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)Premium and subsidy payments, together with key components of those payments, are reported for each train operating company in the Office of Rail and Road’s Data Portal entry ‘Government subsidy per passenger kilometre by train operating company’. This can be found at: [http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/data-portal](http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/data-portal%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).Directly awarded franchise agreements such as the Great Western Railway are awarded under the terms of procurement regulations. These require the Department to assure itself that the costs and revenues agreed with franchisees, and recorded in the franchise agreement as net premiums or subsidy, are correct. The Department continues to review its procurement processes to ensure that this requirement continues to be met in any new directly awarded franchises granted. |
| 13/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | **Railways: Freight:Written question -** [**HL12017**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-04/HL12017)Asked by [**Lord Bradshaw**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/lord-bradshaw/2483)To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the present status of the proposal to build a new freight terminal south of Northampton adjacent to the West Coast Railway Line. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)There are two proposals for freight terminals south of Northampton – Northampton Gateway, and Rail Central. Both are within the Planning Inspectorate’s Development Consent Order process.The examination in public for Northampton Gateway began on 9th October 2018 and is expected to conclude on or before 9th April 2019. Rail Central was accepted for examination on 15th November 2018. The Planning Inspectorate have three months from this date to prepare for examination. No timetable has yet been published. |
| 17/12 | Press release | DfT | Delay Repay 15 goes live for northern passengers. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delay-repay-15-goes-live-for-northern-passengers)  |
| 17/12  | Written Q&A | DfT | **Trains:Written question -** [**200722**](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200722)**Asked by**[**Andy McDonald**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andy-mcdonald/4269)To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much new capacity will be delivered by the 7200 new trains to come on to the rail network between 2014 and 2021; and how many of those new trains are like-for-like replacements of the existing stock. **Answered by:**[**Andrew Jones**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/andrew-jones/3996)The Industry set out in their rolling stock document (Long Term Passenger Rolling Stock Strategy 6th edition) that there will be more than 3,000 additional vehicles on the network by 2021 providing more capacity for passengers across the country. Passengers will see a step change in quality with the introduction of new fleets delivering modern travelling environments and features passengers expect. |
| 18/12 | Written Q&A | DfT | Railways: Compensation:Written question - [HL12257](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12257)Asked by [**Baroness Randerson**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-randerson/4230)To ask Her Majesty's Government which Train Operating Companies are not covered by the Delay Repay compensation scheme; and when those companies are expected to join that scheme. Answered by: [**Baroness Sugg**](https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/baroness-sugg/4584)Great Western Railway offers compensation under a Traditional Passenger’s Charter and is not covered by the Delay Repay compensation scheme. Chiltern Railway also operates under a traditional Passenger’s Charter plus a limited form of Delay Repay with exclusions.The Department for Transport has asked a number of DfT-franchised train operating companies, including Great Western Railway, for proposals to implement Delay Repay before their contract expires and will introduce Delay Repay if the proposals are affordable and represent value for money for taxpayers. It is anticipated that Great Western Railway will introduce Delay Repay in 2019.Delay Repay from 15 minutes (DR15) will be included in the specification for all new DfT franchises in future. This will include the renewal of Chiltern Railway’s franchise. |
| 20/12 | Consultation | ORR | **Statutory consultation on proposed changes to Network Rail’s network licence.** [**Read here.**](http://orr.gov.uk/rail/consultations/open-consultations/statutory-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-network-rails-network-licence)In June 2018, as part of our Periodic Review 2018: draft determination, we published a consultation on our policy approach to reviewing Network Rail 's network licence. It set out our proposals to restructure the existing obligations within the network licence and introduce a number of new obligations for the start of control period 6. An additional consultation in July 2018 provided the text of the draft revised network licence. We concluded on our policy decisions following these consultations on 31 October 2018. Today we are publishing:     The statutory notice for our proposals     Full legal drafting of the proposed licence     Explanation of changes from the current network licence Opens: 20 December 2018Closes: 31 January 2019 |
| 21/12 | Corrospondence  | Public Accounts Committee  | Letter from the Chair of the Transport committee, London Assembly regarding the rail franchising inquiry, 7 December 2018. [Read here](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/public-accounts/Correspondence/2017-19/Letter%20to%20Meg%20Hillier%20MP%20Dec%202018_Redacted.pdf).  |
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**Devolution deals**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 03/01 | Press Release | West Midlands Combined Authority  | First consultation stage on transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner powers to Mayor’s office closes next week. [Read here.](https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/first-consultation-stage-on-transfer-of-police-and-crime-commissioner-powers-to-mayor-s-office-closes-next-week/)  |

**Environment – 25 year environment plan**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 20/12 | Press Release | DEFRA | Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill 2018. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-environment-principles-and-governance-bill-2018)  |
| 03/01 | Speech | DEFRA | Oxford Farming Conference 2019 address by the Environment Secretary. [Read here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oxford-farming-conference-2019-address-by-the-environment-secretary) |

**Environment – Waste**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 18/12 | Press Release | Renewable Energy Association  | REA Welcomes Mandatory Food Waste Collections Following Years of Campaigning[. Read here](https://www.r-e-a.net/news/rea-welcomes-mandatory-food-waste-collections-following-years-of-campaigning).  |

**Environment – Air Quality**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
|  |  |  | No updates. |

**Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees**

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| Date | Type | Organisation | Notes |
| 3/12 | News |  | **EU Exit: Legal position on the Withdrawal Agreement**. The Attorney General has published the legal position on the Withdrawal Agreement.The full report can be read here: [http://bit.ly/2APP9Rx](http://bit.ly/2APP9Rx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)   |
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