



News Release: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### **Railway Engineers' Forum Response to publication of DfT Transport Infrastructure Skills Strategy**

The Railway Engineers' Forum, whose Executive Committee represent the leading Professional Institutions associated with the UK rail industry, fully support the Government's Transport Infrastructure Skills Strategy.

Establishing a clear target of 30,000 transport apprenticeships is a useful objective and shows a significant commitment. We are also particularly pleased to see support for creation of strong career pathways for young people and for ongoing skills, which will help to safeguard this investment.

The Government clearly recognises the value that rail investment has in developing a growing economy. Rail has seen unprecedented growth in recent years and this switch to public transportation presents a significant challenge in how to grow capacity on the network without disrupting passengers. This requires engineering and operating skills, the use of modern technology and innovation, as well as a workforce with a commitment to safety and engineering excellence. By supporting an investment in people, the Government has taken a commendable strategic view.

We will work with the delivery infrastructure that the Government is establishing to support this Strategy. We will also continue to offer strong support to 'Routes Into Rail', who do an excellent job in communicating the value of rail careers to young people.

It is important that the rail industry has a culture of vocational and professional training at all levels: sponsoring; mentoring; offering qualifications and developing life-long learning tools. The Professional Institutions will continue to play a vital role in all these areas so as to strengthen the UK rail sector and safeguard the investment in people to which the Government is committed.

Railway engineering and operating offer inclusive and rewarding careers. By supporting skills within the industry and by engaging with the Professional Institutions, the Government has shown that it is determined to play an active role in ensuring that our railways are a safe, reliable and efficient mode of transport in the 21st Century.

**ENDS**

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## Notes to Editors

The Railway Engineer's Forum has been established by the leading Professional Institutions associated with the UK rail industry. It encourages professional development and best practice between members as well as organising conferences, seminars, lectures, training, information services, publications and statements of policy to Government and other Regulatory Bodies.

## REF Constituent Partners

The constituent partners of the Railway Engineers Forum are:

- [The Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\)](#)
- [The Institution of Engineering and Technology \(IET\)](#)
- [The Institution of Mechanical Engineers \(IMechE\) – Railway Division](#)
- [The Institution of Railway Operators \(IRO\)](#)
- [The Institution of Railway Signal Engineers \(IRSE\)](#)
- [The Permanent Way Institution \(PWI\)](#)
- [The Railway Civil Engineers Association \(RCEA\)](#)
- [The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport \(CILT\)](#)

Associated Societies:

- [International Council on Systems Engineering \(INCOSE\)](#)
- [The Young Railway Professionals \(YRP\)](#)

For further information regarding the membership bodies and the REF, please visit [www.theref.org.uk](http://www.theref.org.uk).

## Press Information

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