



Department for Transport

Lilian Greenwood MP
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From the Minister of State
Jo Johnson MP

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8 August 2018

Dear Lilian

I am writing to update you on a plan to improve information on train services for passengers and to create a more reliable railway. This has been published jointly between the government and the rail industry.

The Joint Rail Data Action Plan, which can be read [here](#), has been developed by the Department for Transport, Rail Delivery Group, Network Rail, the Office of Rail and Road and the Rail Safety and Standards Board, in consultation with the tech and open data communities. Through the release of more and better quality data on the railway, the plans aims to increase innovation and collaboration between the rail and tech sectors, to develop new products and solutions for rail passengers and the rail network.

Our goal is to provide passengers with improved real-time information and travel apps on train services to help them plan ahead, including with updates on disruption, delays and onward travel advice, as well as information on numbers of carriages, seat availability and on-board facilities, like toilets and refreshments. We also want to see improved data used by rail companies to plan more effectively, and to predict and fix issues on the network before they arise.

Under the plan, new data sets will be made available over the coming months to improve the information available to passengers, the tech industry and other parts of the rail industry. The rail industry will also work to identify and remove barriers to further information sharing. This includes improving standardisation of how data is collected, stored and published, and improving clarity over which data is commercially sensitive and what data can be used for what purposes. The government and rail industry will also explore what incentives could be introduced to drive further innovation and data sharing, on top of that already planned.

Improving how rail companies and tech firms work together presents an opportunity, not only for passengers' future journeys, but for the UK to build on our world class expertise in emerging technologies, and to meet the goal set in our Industrial Strategy for the UK to be a world leader in delivering the future of mobility.

I hope you found this update helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jo Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JO JOHNSON MP