

Statement to Parliament: Strategic vision for rail, 29 November 2017

Announcing a new strategic vision for rail, a consultation on the next Great Western franchise, and an invitation to tender for the South Eastern franchise.

I am today (29 November 2017) publishing [Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail](#), which describes our vision for the railways, and the actions we are taking to make it a reality. We are bringing the organisations that run the tracks and trains closer together to deliver better services for passengers. We are pressing ahead with Network Rail devolution to a series of route based businesses. We are investing in upgrades to the network to deliver faster journey times, more capacity, and unlock growth. We are also improving the customer experience, including smart ticketing.

I will make copies of the strategic vision available in the libraries of both Houses.

I am also today announcing a [consultation on the future of the Great Western franchise](#), and issuing the [invitation to tender](#) for the next South Eastern franchise.

These documents are now available on GOV.UK.