

## KEY TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN MARCH 2021



The only update you'll need to read. All the transport developments from March 2021 including the Bus Strategy, the latest on decarbonisation and Net Zero, parts of the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act finally coming into force, the Union Connectivity Review and spaceflight consultations.

### Aviation

#### **The Airports Slot Allocation (Alleviation of Usage Requirements) Regulations 2021 / 185**

In force: 26 March 2021

This instrument extends the current waiver of the 80:20 airport slot usage rule to cover the Summer 2021 slot scheduling season, as a result of the persistent reduction in air traffic resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

#### **UK Emissions Trading Scheme for aviation: how to comply**

Environment Agency guidance for aircraft operators on understanding and meeting compliance obligations under the UK Emissions Trading Scheme explains how to apply for an emissions monitoring plan, open a UK Registry account, complete compliance tasks, and prepare and submit annual emissions reports.

#### **Consultation: Night flights restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports beyond 2024, and national night flight policy**

A Department for Transport consultation is seeking views and evidence on revising night flight dispensation guidance, and on policy options for the Government's future night flight policy. Consultation ends: 31 May 2021.

### Brexit

#### **European Scrutiny Committee report on EU transport policy**

The European Scrutiny Committee has highlighted the significance for the UK of EU strategy in the area of transport, where the EU has ambitious plans for zero emission planes and ships (among other aspirations). The Committee has also considered the impact, or potential impact, on the UK of other recent EU laws and policies.

#### **International haulage: Government support**

A briefing paper from the House of Lords Library looks at how the UK's new trading relationship with the EU and the coronavirus pandemic have affected international haulage.

## Bus

### [Helping you navigate the Bus Strategy](#)

The government recently published a major new bus strategy for England. At first glance, it seems to give local transport authorities more control over their bus services, but it comes with a catch. This article discusses the strategy and what local transport authorities need to do next.

### [The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons \(Scotland\) Order 2021 \(SSI 2021/175\)](#)

In force: 1 April 2021

This instrument creates a concessionary travel scheme for Young Persons. The scheme is to operate throughout Scotland and will provide free bus travel, on eligible services, to people aged 5-18 who obtain a travel card and use it to make an eligible journey. It also extends eligibility for companion cards under the current Older and Disabled Persons Scheme.

[Policy Note](#)

### [Mandatory Travel Concession \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(SI 2021/205\)](#)

In force: 23 March 2021

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Transport has asked local authorities designated as Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) to pay concessionary fare funding to bus operators at pre-COVID-19 levels, despite the fall in travel from pass holders. The Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011 state that operators should be 'financially no better... off as a result of providing a concession'. If TCAs continue to make concessionary fare payments to operators at pre-COVID levels, this could leave operators financially better off as a result of providing the concession. This instrument, therefore, amends the Regulations and removes the requirement that reimbursement arrangements for concessionary fares do not result in the bus operator being better off.

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

## Coronavirus

### [Global Travel Taskforce meets to map out safe return to international travel](#)

The new Global Travel Taskforce met to discuss how international travel can be re-opened safely. The work of the taskforce will include developing a new risk-based framework to facilitate international travel and assessing how existing measures, such as the Government's testing and isolation schemes, could be used to facilitate travel while managing the risk of imported cases and "variants of concern".

## Decarbonisation

### [Do we have the energy to decarbonise transport?](#)

Transport is the sector with the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, and we have 30 years to decarbonise it. The 5th instalment in our Green Recovery Insight series asks what fuels will replace petrol and diesel, and how we can get the energy and the transport sectors to work together.

### [Interview Series: Countdown to Carbon Zero](#)

The first of a series of discussions, hosted by Addleshaw Goddard, with industry experts about the transport sector's biggest and most important challenge since the industrial era – the countdown to Carbon Zero. This initial interview is with Sam Longman from Transport for London and focuses on how sustainable transport starts with land use.

### [UK's first ever hydrogen transport hub kick-started by £3 million government investment](#)

The UK's first-ever hydrogen transport hub is a step closer, with the unveiling of an official masterplan and £3 million in funding. The Tees Valley MultiModal Hydrogen Transport Hub Masterplan sets out a vision and plan for a multi-modal hydrogen transport hub within the UK.

### **Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding**

Three projects in Cwmbran, Warwickshire and Ballymena will receive more than £54 million of funding from UK government and industry.

### **Government response to consultation on the ending of the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars and vans**

The Government's response to feedback on its consultation on ending the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars and vans. The Government will conduct a review of phase out dates by 2025.

### **Consultation: Amending the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) to increase carbon savings on land, air and at sea**

A consultation by the Department for Transport proposes altering the RTFO for greater carbon savings by revised renewable targets, recycled carbon and non-biological fuel amounts, plus its role in maritime. Consultation ends: 23 April 2021.

### **Consultation: Ending of the sale of new diesel buses**

A consultation on proposals to end the sale of new diesel buses in England. Consultation ends: 11 April 2021.

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## **Electric Vehicles**

### **The Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/396)**

In force: 21 April 2021

These Regulations bring into force provisions of the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018. Section 1 provides a framework to identify automated vehicles in Great Britain. Sections 2 to 8 extend compulsory motor vehicle insurance to cover the use of automated vehicles in automated mode. Sections 9, 10 and 13 to 19 provide powers for the Secretary of State to regulate the charging of electric vehicles.

[Explanatory Note](#)

### **Electric vehicle charging strategy for Wales**

A document setting out the Welsh Government's strategy for electric vehicle charging in Wales.

### **CMA electric vehicle charging market study progress update**

An update from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) on its electric vehicle charging market study. The CMA's intention is to have further engagement with key stakeholders in Spring 2021, and publish its final report by Autumn 2021.

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## **HS2**

### **High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Act 2021: Government consultation response**

A Department for Transport command paper sets out the Government's response to the consultation on the draft class approval for matters ancillary to development of High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe). The consultation asked for the views of planning authorities and members of the public on the content of the draft class approval.

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## **Infrastructure**

### **A Strategic Transport Network for the UK**

Sir Peter Hendy published his [Union Connectivity Review Interim Report](#) in March. Its key recommendation is a new pan-UK Strategic Transport Network to replace the EU Trans-European Transport Network now that the UK is no longer in the EU. In this article, we

discuss the key points from the Interim Report and what they might mean for devolution, the path to Net Zero and levelling up the UK.

### **Move to boost transport connections across the whole of the UK**

Following the interim report of Sir Peter Hendy's union connectivity review, Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out a vision to level up and boost connectivity across the UK through improved transport infrastructure. The Government will consult on cutting air passenger duty on internal UK flights and will commit £20 million to develop plans for upgraded rail, road, sea and air links.

### **Build Back Better: Government plan for growth**

The UK Government released its Build Back Better plan alongside the Budget 2021. Transport initiatives include £1.3 billion to accelerate the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, £5 billion for buses and cycling, £4.2 billion for intra-city transport settlements to support the UK's largest city regions and record amounts of funding for national road and rail, including the Lower Thames Crossing.

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## **Ports**

### **English freeport locations announced**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, announced the locations of the eight successful freeport bids in England as part of the Budget 2021. The eight locations are East Midlands Airport, Felixstowe/Harwich, Liverpool, Humber, Plymouth, Solent, Thames and Teesside.

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## **Rail Network**

### **Scotland's train services to be nationalised in 2022**

The Scottish Government has announced that ScotRail train services will be run by a public-owned company from 2022.

### **Further £33 million COVID-19 support funding announced for light rail and trams in the north and the Midlands**

A further £33 million of emergency COVID-19 funding has been provided to support light rail and tram operators during the pandemic.

### **Resilience of rail infrastructure: final report**

The Department for Transport has published Network Rail's report on strengthening the resilience of the UK's rail network against extreme weather conditions following the 2020 Stonehaven tragedy. The report, informed by taskforces on weather and earthworks management, sets out how railways can be protected from climate change and extreme weather.

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## **Shipping**

### **£20 million fund to propel green shipbuilding launched**

Hydrogen-powered vessels and e-charge points at ports could soon become a common sight, thanks to a £20 million competition launched to make innovative green maritime ideas a reality.

### **Shipping industry backs \$5 billion UN "moon-shot" programme to decarbonise shipping**

Responding to the United Nations' (UN) call for "urgency and ambition" on climate change, BIMCO has stated that the entire global shipping industry backs a "moon-shot" proposal from governments to set up a \$5 billion USD fund. The fund will catalyse the research and development needed to help shipping meet UN decarbonisation goals.

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## Space

### Consultation outcomes: Unlocking Commercial Spaceflight for the UK

A joint report sets out the Government's response to two consultations on the operability and effectiveness of the draft space industry regulations and the Government's approach to liabilities, insurance and charging.

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