

UK transport companies 'held back by lack of government strategy'

Survey finds fewer than a third of senior figures in transport organisations believe government has clear vision

Gwyn Topham, transport correspondent
The Guardian, Wednesday 13 March 2013



The rail and aviation sectors expressed most dissatisfaction with government policy. Photograph: Chris Ratcliffe/Bloomberg via Getty Images

The vast majority of companies and organisations in the UK transport sector believe their work has been harmed by the lack of a clear government strategy, research shows.

In a survey of senior figures from 133 different organisations, fewer than a third believed that the government had a clear vision for the future of the nation's transport, and 85% said that this had had a negative impact.

Dissatisfaction was most extreme in rail, where a timetable for franchising remains to be announced and high-speed rail's progress is uncertain, and in aviation, where a decision on expanding airport capacity has been deferred to the Davies commission.

During research conducted for the consultants Moorhouse, not a single respondent in the

aviation sector felt positively about their attempts to engage with the government to influence **transport policy**.

Jason Byrne of Moorhouse said: "The UK's transport sector is mired in uncertainty, as this data clearly shows. This lack of clear direction is grinding UK transport and infrastructure to a halt, and transport organisations risk wasting money by investing in the wrong areas or failing to adequately understand the benefits expected from these initiatives."

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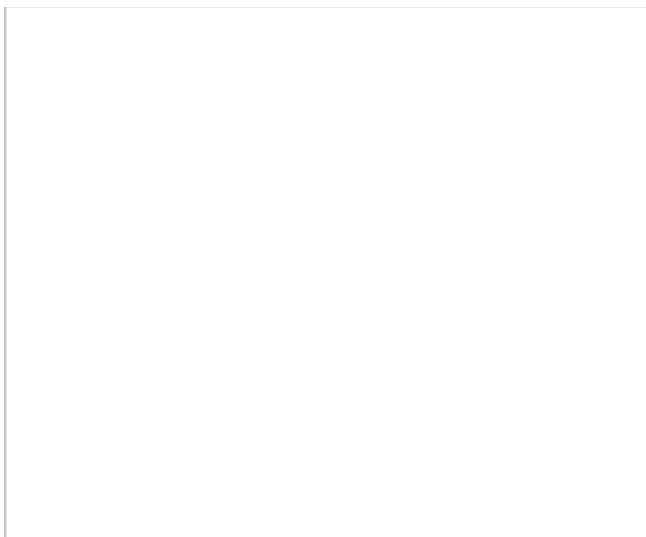
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