RAIL FREIGHT GROUP CONFERENCE 2026

8 OCTOBER 2026 | LONDON

Ahead of **Rail Freight Group Conference 2026**, taking place on 8 October in London, **Dave Penney, CEO from Heavy Haul Rail**, explores the biggest growth areas for rail freight currently and how to overcome some of the challenges facing the freight industry.



DAVE PENNEY
CEO
HEAVY HAUL RAIL

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST GROWTH AREAS FOR RAIL FREIGHT CURRENTLY?

The biggest opportunities are in intermodal traffic, construction materials and supporting the UK's net zero transition through development of new energies traffic. Customers are increasingly looking for greener logistics solutions, and rail freight is well placed to provide a lower-carbon alternative for both domestic and port-based supply chains.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES CURRENTLY FACING THE FREIGHT INDUSTRY?

The key challenges are network capacity, reliability and maintaining competitiveness in a challenging economic environment. To unlock future growth, the industry needs continued investment in infrastructure, terminals and freight-friendly policies that make it easier for customers to choose rail and give them the confidence to shift more freight from road to rail.

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