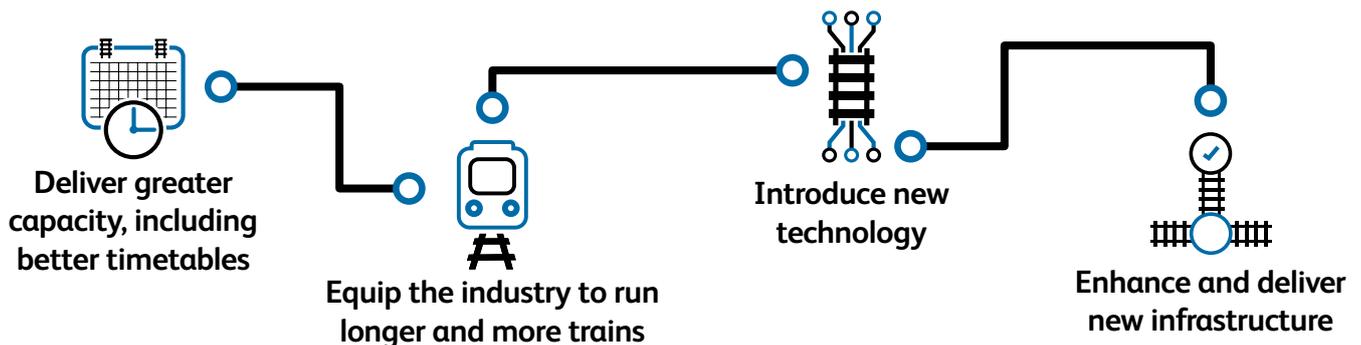


System Operator



Capacity is at the heart of everything the System Operator does. From what the railway could look like in 30 years to tomorrow's timetable, the System Operator spans the breadth of railway planning - and the full spectrum of system opportunity to:



The System Operator provides a whole-system, long term view, informed by the detailed knowledge gained through planning and timetabling the network. The industry-wide interfaces with every train operating customer, route and infrastructure manager enables the industry to deliver for passengers and freight users.

Year in review

The past year has been one of significant change across the rail industry, Network Rail and the System Operator. In particular:

- Network Rail made progress with two key phases of its putting passengers first programme and the creation of a new regional structure.
- The Williams Review is making progress on developing proposals for a new industry structure and commercial framework (to be published shortly).
- The System Operator has a new interim managing director and is in a period of transition - reflecting on the impact of these wider changes on the operating model and organisational structure.

Plans are being updated in light of these changes, with key aspects of proposals still in development. The System Operator will continue to engage transparently with customers and key stakeholders as those plans evolve. We also remain focused on delivering our priorities - ensuring that from long term planning through to the development of the national timetable is a coherent and integrated product deliverable at a network level.

Looking ahead

The focus for the year ahead includes:

- Effective delivery of the 'day job'. The System Operator has around 900 professional and motivated staff undertaking key work to support the operation and development of an effective and efficient railway.

Our first priority will be to continue our focus on this important work.

- Working with Government, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the wider rail industry on the implementation of the upcoming Williams Review recommendations.
- Beginning development of a Whole Industry Strategic Plan to provide a long-term strategy for the industry and give advice to funders on choices and options for Control Period 7.
- Taking forward the outcome of the Oakervee Review and developing with funders and stakeholders a coherent strategy for the development of the rail network and integration of key mega-programmes into the national mainline rail network, such as High Speed 2 (HS2), Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR), East West Rail (EWR), and Crossrail 2 (CR2).
- Working with industry to improve the framework for capacity allocation including changes to the Sale of Access Rights and the Network Code.
- Enhancing our capacity planning capability and processes to allow for the effective development and delivery of the industry's core product - 'the timetable'. This includes the assurance of timetable changes by the Industry Timetable Change Assurance PMO.
- Working with the regions and the Department for Transport to support the programme of franchises.
- Continuing to strengthen the capabilities and processes of the System Operator.