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New poll today shows rail investment is high priority for the public

25 October 2017: Polling company Ipsos MORI have today published new research showing that rail infrastructure, and particularly new tracks and stations, are among the public's top priorities for infrastructure investment. The poll found that 46% of Britons chose tracks and stations from a list of priorities for investment, ahead of housing supply (43%) and flood defences (38%).

Responding to the findings, Darren Caplan, Chief Executive of the Railway Industry

Association said: "Today's Ipsos MORI poll confirms how high a priority the railways are for the public, with rail investment seen as a major catalyst for connecting communities, providing new jobs and boosting economic growth right across the UK.

"Rail suppliers, who between them manufacture the trains, track, signals and stations and make them all work, play a key part of this story, working behind the scenes every day to keep the railway network moving. In the coming months, we will hear further detail about the next funding period for the rail system, known as Control Period 6 between 2019 and 2024 – we urge the Government to consider the findings of this poll when developing their future rail investment plans".

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Ipsos MORI Poll can be found here: <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/rail-overtakes-housing-new-top-infrastructure-priority-britons>
2. **About the Railway Industry Association:** The Railway Industry Association (RIA) is the representative body for UK-based suppliers to the UK and world-wide railways. It has some 200 companies in membership and the sector employs 240,000 people and contributes annually £11 billion Gross Value Added (GVA). It is also a growing industry with the number of rail journeys expected to double over the next 25 years and freight set to grow significantly too. RIA's membership is active across the whole of railway supply, covering a diverse range of products and services and including both multi-national companies and SMEs (60% by number). RIA works to promote the importance of the rail system to UK plc, to help export UK expertise around the globe and to share best practice and innovation across the industry.