

## **British Ports Association responds to Government Draft Airports Policy Statement**

**Commenting on the Draft Airports National Policy Statement published today, Richard Ballantyne, Chief Executive of the British Ports Association said:**

“We welcome the Government's commitment to infrastructure which serves the UK's international gateways but it's vital that freight infrastructure, such as our road and rail network, is not overlooked. The overwhelming majority of trade enters the UK by sea, so it is crucial that our ports are well served by road and rail so they can continue to support our economy.”

The Draft Airports National Policy Statement was published today by the Department for Transport and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-airports-national-policy-statement>

The British Ports Association will be working with the Department for Transport to consider the future for freight coming through our ports.

### **Notes**

- The British Ports Association represents the interests of 100 port members, covering over 350 ports, terminal operators and port facilities
- The UK ports industry plays a fundamentally important role in the country's economy. 96% of the UK's international trade – imports and exports – is carried through UK ports which also handle 60 million passenger journeys each year
- The UK port industry is the second largest in Europe, directly employing around 120,000 people and handling more than 500 million tonnes of freight each year