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September 13, 2021



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The latest rail news on Monday, 13th September 2021

HS2 Ltd has today announced that according to its latest figures, over 20,000 people are now working on the project, one year on from the Prime Minister announcing the formal start of construction on Phase One from London to the West Midlands.

Contracts have already been awarded to over 2,200 businesses, 97 per cent of which are UK-based. A further £25 billion worth of opportunities are expected to flow out into the wider supply chain over the coming years.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said: "While there have been some issues with the project in the past, hitting the landmark of 20,000 jobs underlines the unstoppable momentum HS2 now has."

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Planning permission has been given for the first new railway station on the Northumberland Line.

An article on ITV's website says Ashington station will be built next to the original one which closed in 1964. It's the first of six new stations on the rail line between Ashington and Newcastle.

The line, linking Newcastle central with towns through south east Northumberland is due to open by 2024.

The Stourbridge Shuttle remains the UK's most reliable train operation, recording an average PPM rating of 99.84 per cent so far this current railway year.

It is also beginning to see patronage figures return to normal as restrictions have been lifted, with the service carrying over 100,000 passengers since 1st April 2021.

Tarmac has been named as Business of the Year at the annual Rail Freight Group Awards, which were held last week in Buckinghamshire.

Network Rail won Rail Freight Project of the Year for its Southampton Freight Train Lengthening Scheme, and Heather Waugh of Freightliner won Outstanding Individual Contribution.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Photo credit: HS2 Ltd