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Fears are growing that Northern Powerhouse Rail may be scaled back after the government told its leadership to hold off submitting a business plan.

An article in The Times says Transport for the North had been planning to submit its case for the project to the transport secretary next month.

However, it has been asked to wait until the government's Integrated Rail Plan, which will set out the future of rail travel in the North of England and the Midlands, is published next month.

A rail bridge between Stonehaven and Montrose is set to reopen after major damage was repaired.

The article in The Scotsman says the bridge on the main line between Dundee and Aberdeen has been shut since January 15th after masonry fell from the side wall on the southbound side of the structure.

But the almost 180-year-old bridge is now set to reopen on February 22nd.

[Click here for more details.](#)

HS2 has started the search for a specialist contractor to build the high speed rail project's central control centre and maintenance depot, that will create around 500 long-term jobs in Birmingham's Washwood Heath.

The contract - worth an estimated £275 million - will see the winning bidder work with HS2 to transform the 30 hectare brown field site into the nerve centre of the HS2 network

[Click here for more details.](#)

Finally, and the Railway Benefit Fund is staging a week-long fundraising event designed to bring together the railway family in support of colleagues in need.

Railway Family Week, from April 26th to May 2nd, will feature a range of fundraising events, some of which are already underway.

The RBF was founded in 1858, so they've weaved 1858 into a fundraising challenge: The 1858 Challenge.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Network Rail