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September 24, 2021



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The latest rail news on Friday, 24th September 2021

The UK Rail Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN), the £92 million partnership between academia and industry, has launched a new Technology and Innovation Hub at Unipart Rail's Headquarters in Doncaster.

Led by Unipart Rail, the new Hub will support the sector in translating academic research and innovation to solve strategic industry challenges and to enable and develop the next generation of products and services.

The Hub will have a particular focus in supporting SMEs, both those established and new to the industry.

The amount of freight moved across Britain's railway has returned to pre-pandemic levels according to statistics published by the Office of Rail and Road.

The regulator's *Freight Rail Usage and Performance* stats show that in the first quarter of this year a total of 4.33 billion net tonne-kilometres of rail freight was moved across the network.

This is an increase of 36.5 per cent on the same quarter last year and an increase by 1.3 per cent compared with the same quarter two years ago.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Network Rail has completed the finishing touches to the first section of sea wall at Dawlish.

The company recently finished the remaining upgrades to the first section of new sea wall at Dawlish with the installation of new low energy LED lighting and concrete seating along the sea wall.

Contractors refurbishing March railway station in Cambridgeshire have discovered a Victorian ticket ledger dating from when the station first opened more than 130 years ago.

An article on Construction Manager says the ledger, dated April 1885, contains handwritten entries of all the passenger luggage and parcels sent from the station.

Workers from rail refurbishment contractor Total Property Support Services (TPSS) found the ledger when it fell from a disused loft space while they were removing rotten woodwork.

Photo credit: Office of Rail and Road