

Network Rail staff deliver convoy of equipment to help Ukrainian Railways

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Network Rail staff have come to the aid of rail colleagues in Ukraine after delivering a convoy of vehicles loaded with equipment to help keep the Ukrainian railway running.

Ukrainian Railways, Ukrzaliznytsia, requested help from the international railway family via the International Union of Railways (UIC). They needed equipment and spares to help keep their railway running to provide vital evacuation routes and humanitarian aid following the invasion by Russia, all while facing significant damage to railway infrastructure and obvious safety risks for workers.

- **'UK Rail for Ukraine' sends first humanitarian aid train**
- **GB Railfreight names loco in support of Ukraine**
- **Rail officials in USA and Europe set up task force to help Ukraine**

Helped by partners in the supply chain, **Network Rail** heeded the call and donated four vehicles, loaded with spares and railway tools including generators, drills, jacks and cutting equipment. They were delivered on 16 May.

Allan Spence, **Network Rail's** director of regulator liaison, said: "We didn't hesitate when the request for help came through. We often talk about the railway family here in Britain, but the family has international connections too. Anyone who has watched the news over the last few months has been moved by what they've seen and that spurred us into action.

"We took the vehicles loaded with much needed equipment, to a depot near the Polish-Ukrainian border. We had lots of help along the way - like complimentary travel through the channel tunnel, radios loaned by High Motive and help to get back from Polish Railways (PKP). And the loads we took included lots of kit from our contractors."

Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps said: "It's inspiring that **Network Rail** have used their knowledge and expertise to help keep the Ukrainian railways moving by providing vital equipment and aid for their evacuation routes.

"Our fantastic transport network continues to demonstrate huge amounts of support and generosity to those fleeing Putin's brutal invasion."

Five **Network Rail** staff drove the four vehicles through six countries, covering some 2,000km in three days to Poland. However, the final part of the journey, across the border into Ukraine, is being managed by Polish Railways. This is not the first time that Britain's railway industry has come to the aid of Ukraine. Earlier in the year UK Rail for Ukraine brought together a train-load of humanitarian aid donated from many businesses to help the many displaced and at-risk victims of the war.