

## South Yorkshire Mayor says continued delay in publishing Integrated Rail Plan is unacceptable

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The South Yorkshire Mayor Dan Jarvis says it is unacceptable that the long-awaited Integrated Rail Plan is now not going to be published until the autumn.

The Integrated Rail Plan will set out the Government's plans for rail investment in the North and Midlands, including on the HS2 Phase 2b eastern leg and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Mayor Dan Jarvis said: "We've now been waiting for eight months to see the Integrated Rail Plan. This ongoing delay is completely unacceptable.

"As a consequence, we're being asked to make impossible decisions about vital rail links, such as that between Sheffield and Manchester Airport, without even seeing the government's list of rail investment projects.

"This continued delay further fuels the suspicion that what is being planned falls far short of the promises that were made. Indeed, after a certain point, delay starts to send a strong message of its own."

Mayor Dan Jarvis continued: “I struggle to see how this government can claim to be serious about ‘levelling up’ the North, when there are so many question marks about something as basic as improving rail connections between our towns and cities.

“We desperately need the Government to provide clarity on their plans for HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail serving our region. They’re prolonging the uncertainty for businesses and people living on the proposed HS2 route in the North.”

*Photo credit: Sheffield City Region*