



**WIG**

The Whitehall & Industry Group  
connecting the sectors



## 'Infrastructure' Series

Keeping Britain's railways moving through  
COVID-19 and beyond

### Expert Insight

We were joined by John Larkinson, Chief Executive, Office of Rail and Road to discuss the regulator's role in keeping rail services moving throughout this pandemic and beyond. He touched upon points including:

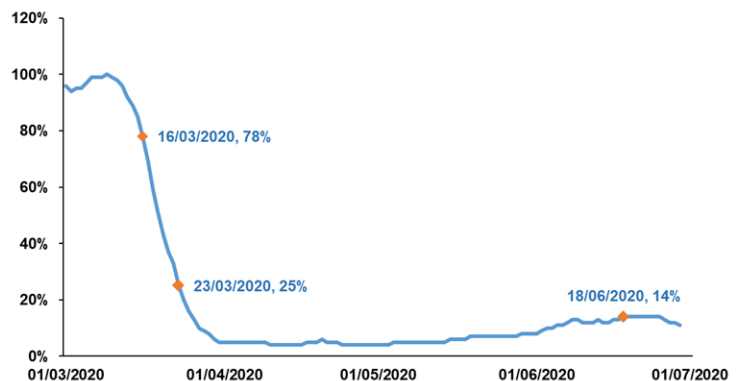
- The initial industry response being quick, decisive and impressive
- Services are now back operating at c.85% however demand is low and future demand remains uncertain
- Whether there would be buy-in for reform in pricing and scheduling to reflect the changes to demand and costs of running services for reduced capacity
- The role of rail in 'build, build, build' and the impact of decarbonisation of the rail sector



### Presentation Spotlight

The impact of COVID-19 on rail passenger journeys is severe. Even as restrictions ease, journeys are only at 14% capacity when compared to the equivalent week in 2019

Rail passenger journeys (seven-day average) as a percentage of the equivalent week in 2019



### Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions to be answered, some of the big issues raised included:

- Whether a re-balancing of capacity between freight and passenger traffic was needed given the decline in passenger traffic
- The potential impact on major projects and future investment as a result of the significant decline in passenger numbers
- How TOCs will deal with ensuring social distancing whilst balancing the needs to transport commuters to their final destination as people start returning to the workplace
- The impact of COVID-19 on the Williams Rail Review and other policy reforms
- The positive opportunities for the rail sector to come out of COVID-19

WIG members can listen to John's presentation [here](#)

To see our full programme of webinars, visit [www.wig.co.uk](http://www.wig.co.uk)