



**DP WORLD**

# **RAIL FREIGHT**

Incentivising more freight to move by rail and accelerate UK's net zero ambitions

March 2026

## MSP TRIAL IMPACT – SEPT 2023 TO DEC 2025



**29%**

OF CONTAINERS MOVED BY RAIL  
against 21% pre MSP



**167,604**

REMOVED TRUCK JOURNEYS  
FROM M27, M3, A34



**13,998,019**

ROAD MILES TRANSFERRED TO RAIL



**41,189**

TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> REMOVED

**5**



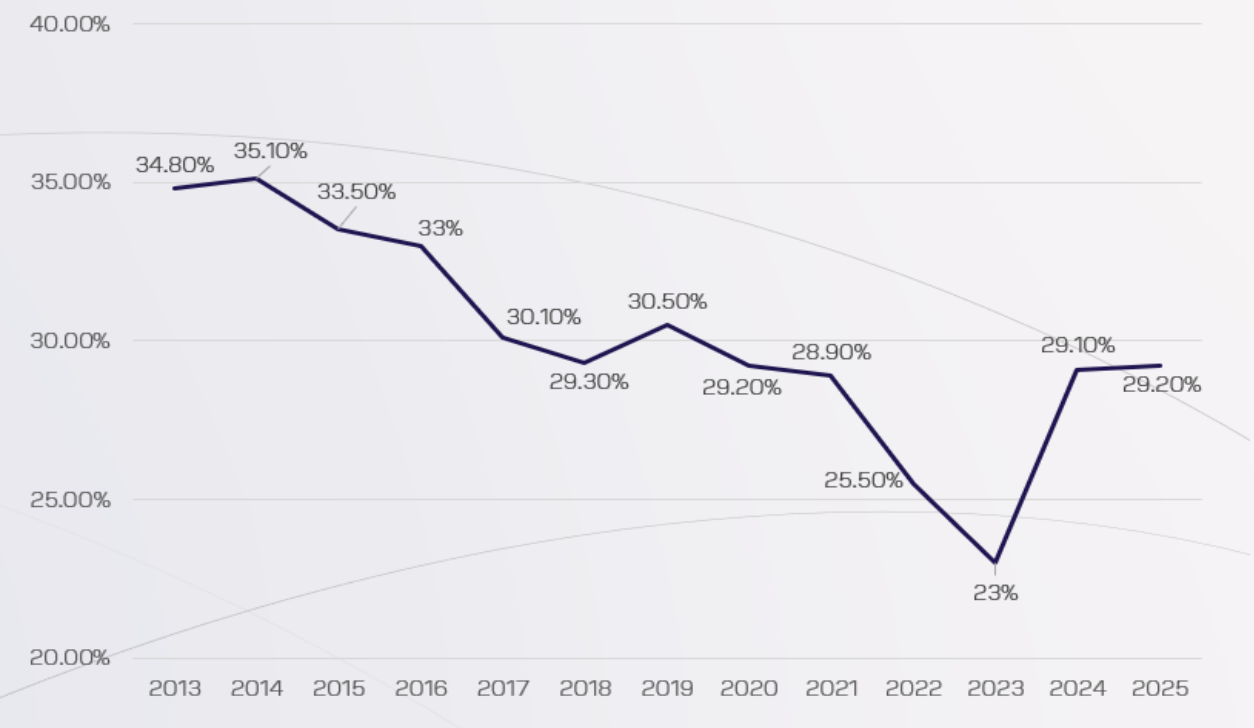
NEW TRAIN SERVICES

Cardiff, Birmingham, Northampton,  
East Midlands Gateway & Doncaster



# RAIL AND ROAD

Rail share of containers at DP World Southampton has been on decline for 10 years



In the first half of 2023, the total share of rail was 21%, since introducing the MSP trial, the total rail share has increased to over 30% on a few occasions but not consistently.

# NET ZERO

UK needs to reduce its CO2 emissions  
and become Net Zero by 2050

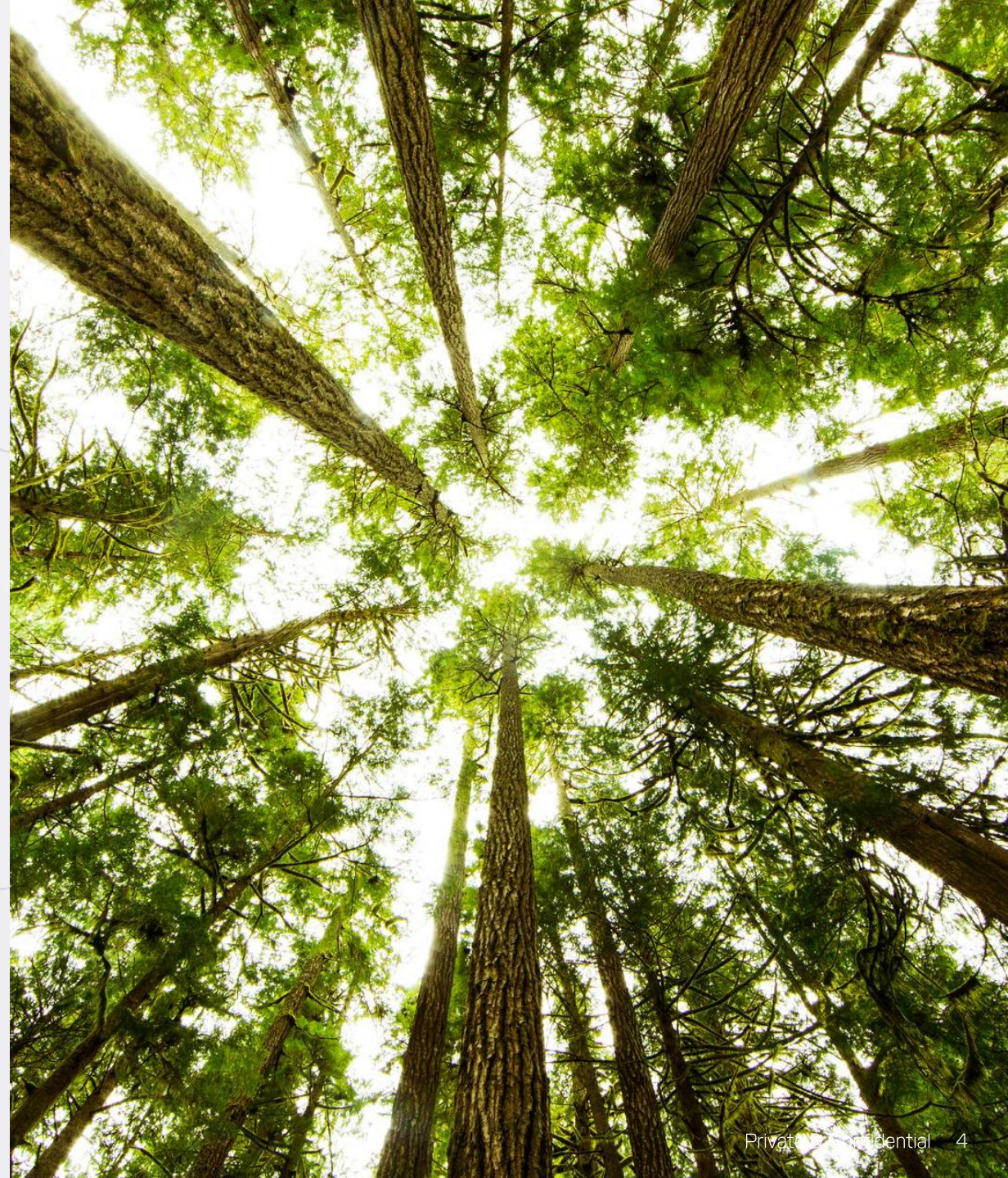
Rail emissions reduce

on average

by 80%

compared to truck

80% reduction based on UK Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
Greenhouse Gas Reporting Conversion Factors 2022



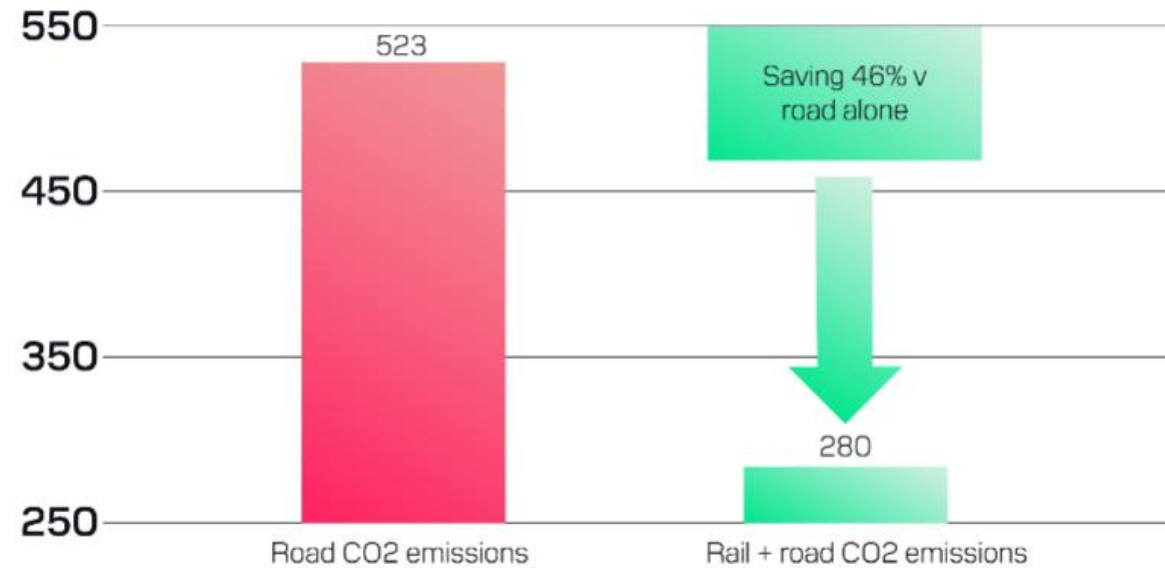
# FOR EVERY CONTAINER MOVED BY RAIL C250KG OF CO2 IS SAVED

## E.G. MAGNA PARK

The estimated CO2 savings:

- Rail from DP World Southampton
- To Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal
- Then road to Magna Park

## ROAD AND RAIL EMISSIONS COMPARISON (KgCO2e)



This example shows Southampton to Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal and delivery to Magna Park

# THE NEXT PHASE OF INCENTIVES – Q2-2026

To date, the programme has delivered measurable environmental benefits, removing over 167,000 truck journeys and over 13 million road miles and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 41,000 tonnes. The current rail share stands at 29.8% since inception, representing a significant increase from the 21% baseline in H1-2023. However, this percentage has not yet consistently exceeded the 30% milestone, which is considered critical for long-term sustainability and justification of continued investment in modal shift initiatives. Ideally, we aim to see rail share reach at least 35% in the medium term, and continued incentivisation is required to help achieve this goal.

## **Q2 2026 – INCENTIVE FRAMEWORK (1st April 2026 – 30th June 2026)**

For the next incentive reporting period, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, the existing MSP structure will continue with the following clarification:

- **Import Clearing Agents Incentive:**
  - The MSP incentive will be set to £50 per import laden container within the MSP Incentive zone.
- **Rail Freight Terminal Operators (RFTOs):**
  - A Performance-Based Disbursement (PBD) of £20 per import laden container moved by rail within the MSP Incentive zone will be applicable if the RFTOs individually achieve their number of railed container targets\* in the quarter.
- The PBD will be allocated to the RFTOs on account at the end of the quarter.
- The RFTOs must pass on the PBD to the Freight Operating Companies (FOCs).
- The MSP Fee of £10 per import laden container will remain unchanged.

\* Targets are being applied in order to reinforce the importance of achieving and sustaining rail share milestones, which remains critical to the long-term environmental and commercial sustainability of the programme.

# £10 MODAL SHIFT PROGRAMME FEE

CHARGED ON ALL IMPORT LADEN CONTAINERS



CUSTOMER CHOOSES TRANSPORT



Rail + Road within MSP Incentive Zone

Rail + Road outside MSP Incentive Zone

Road only

< 140 miles from

> 140 miles from



**£50\***

**MSP Incentive applied**

**£10**

**MSP Fee repaid**

**£20\*\***

**RFTO Performance-Based  
Disbursement**

\*The MSP Incentive will be £50 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 2026 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

\*\*£20 per applicable container will be applicable to the Rail Freight Terminal Operators for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 2026 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 if the RFTOs individually achieve their number of railed container targets in the quarter.

# THE MSP INCENTIVE ZONE

Intermodal railheads in zone:

Avonmouth;

Barry Docks;

Birmingham Hams Hall;

Birmingham (BIFT);

Birch Coppice;

Birmingham Landor Street;

East Midlands Gateway;

Bristol;

Cardiff;

Daventry;

Northampton;

Portbury;

The MSP Incentive Zone is approx. 140 miles from DP World Southampton



# THANK YOU

UK Commercial & Supply Chain Team

Email: [modalshift.uk@dpworld.com](mailto:modalshift.uk@dpworld.com)