

Item:

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**Report to Partnership Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**RESEARCH**

**HITRANS Freight Capability Study- Draft Scope**

HITRANS is seeking expressions of interest from consultants to carry out a review of the Highlands and Islands Rail Freight Network. The study will be desktop-based. The output will be designed to inform the logistics industry about the ability of the railway to respond to the demand for modal shift from road.

Data for each route will include:

- Maximum train length
- Maximum trailing weight
- Route availability
- Loading gauge
- Path availability

Data for each terminal will include:

- Location
- Capability
- Access
- Control

The study should also consider planned and proposed enhancements. It is proposed to circulate the full brief in October.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009