

Transport & Logistics Insight

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Paul Wormald Partner



Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of our Transport and Logistics newsletter. The sector continues to experience rapid change, shaped by innovation, government policy, and wider economic pressures. From major infrastructure investment in electric HGV charging to ongoing debate around the future of autonomous vehicles, businesses across the industry are preparing for both opportunities and challenges. Alongside these developments, changes to taxation and leadership updates within Hawsons provide important news for our clients and contacts.

In this edition of the newsletter, we cover:

- 23 Electric HGV Charging Superhubs to be launched by 2030
- When will we see autonomous vehicles on UK roads?
- UK Spending Review – How the Transport & Logistics sector is expected to benefit
- Inheritance tax changes: Is your business at risk?

In this edition, we will also be rolling out our new newsletter structure, where we celebrate highlights from our staff, so stay tuned for these to feature throughout!

As always we hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter and as ever please do not hesitate to contact one of our experts if you have any questions about these articles.

Paul Wormald
Partner



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23 Electric HGV Charging Superhubs to be launched by 2030

In a major boost for the UK haulage industry, Moto has announced plans to roll out 300 Electric HGV Charging points across 23 superhubs by 2030. These hubs will be located strategically across the country's busiest motorway service areas, offering a practical and much-needed step towards a lower-carbon future for road freight.

The UK haulage sector has come under increasing pressure to decarbonise, so this is welcome news for the sector. The shift to electric HGVs has been held back by multiple factors, including cost and a lack of charging infrastructure that can support long-distance and time-critical journeys. These plans aim to address this barrier.

Electric HGV Charging points – reducing carbon emissions

The move is expected to cut carbon emissions in the haulage sector by over 500,000 metric tonnes of CO₂ every year. That's a substantial reduction, and one that puts the UK on a stronger path towards meeting its net-zero goals.

Hauliers have long expressed concern about how they can transition to Electric HGVs without sacrificing reliability or profitability. This development provides a more workable future. With superhubs placed on major routes, HGV drivers will no longer need to divert from key journeys to access charging, helping to reduce downtime and improve confidence in greener

fleets.

The locations and logistics

Moto's 23 planned sites are set to include service areas on major routes, including the M1, M6, M4, and M25, among others. The idea is to create an efficient, reliable network that supports national freight movements. Each superhub will feature high-capacity chargers suitable for Electric HGVs, designed to minimise charging times and keep vehicles moving.

This will also help future-proof infrastructure as an increasing number of manufacturers begin to bring electric HGVs to market. Which will only increase the demand for reliable accessible charging.

A turning point for the sector

The UK haulage sector has faced a tough few years, with rising costs and recruitment issues. But this kind of long-term infrastructure investment sends a clear signal: the route to a lower-carbon freight industry is starting to look more achievable.

Furthermore, it demonstrates that the decarbonisation of the road haulage industry will not lead to disruption.

Continued overleaf



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23 Electric HGV Charging Superhubs to be launched by 2030 (continued)

With the right planning and infrastructure, it can support efficiency, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability.

quickly and effectively. Contact our **transport and logistics sector specialists** to see how we can support your organisation.

Paul Wormald, Partner at Hawsons Chartered Accountants, and expert in the Transport & Logistics sector stated,

“This is a significant and much-needed development for the haulage industry, if electric HGVs are to be the way forward. Lack of infrastructure has long been a roadblock to the adoption of electric HGVs, so Moto’s plans are a real boost in this respect. This could mark a turning point for many hauliers, helping them transition to alternatively fuelled fleets without compromising efficiency. It’s encouraging to see investment that matches the scale of the challenge.”

We’re here to help

At Hawsons Chartered Accountants, we have a dedicated team of specialist transport and logistics accountants. We act for a large number of clients in this sector across our three offices, ranging from hauliers to international couriers, and understand the challenges this dynamic sector faces. With our experience in the transport and logistics sector we are able to develop a close understanding of your business and, through active year-round involvement, we can help you anticipate and deal with challenges



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Hawsons Forms Strategic Alliance with Bruce & Butler to Strengthen Cyber and Data Protection Services

Hawsons Chartered Accountants has announced a significant investment in Bruce & Butler, a leading data protection and cybersecurity firm. This strategic alliance combines Hawsons' financial expertise with Bruce & Butler's specialised services in data protection and cybersecurity, offering businesses a comprehensive, integrated solution to protect both their financial and digital assets.

With offices in Sheffield, Doncaster, and Northampton, Hawsons provides a wide range of accounting, tax, audit, corporate finance, and business advisory services across the UK. Bruce & Butler brings deep expertise in GDPR compliance, data protection, cyber security, penetration testing, and AI, ensuring businesses meet evolving legal requirements while safeguarding sensitive information.

This collaboration allows both firms to deliver seamless support across financial management and data compliance, offering businesses a full spectrum of services. Whether it's financial strategy, growth planning, data security, or privacy law adherence, the partnership ensures businesses are protected and compliant in today's fast-moving regulatory environment.

Pete Wilmer, Managing Partner at Hawsons, said:

"Partnering with Bruce & Butler enables us to provide a complete solution for businesses, covering both their financial needs and data security requirements. This collaboration strengthens our ability to support clients as they navigate the challenges of the future."

Matt Bruce, Managing Director at Bruce & Butler, added:

"We are pleased to partner with Hawsons, enabling us to offer practical, expert services that help businesses stay secure, compliant, and ahead of the curve. This partnership is built on trust, shared expertise, and a commitment to adding value."

This alliance allows businesses to stay secure, agile, and prepared for the future. Together, Hawsons and Bruce & Butler offer the expert support and integrated solutions that companies need to thrive safely.



When will we see autonomous vehicles on UK roads?

Self-driving technology is picking up speed, and autonomous vehicles may be on our roads sooner than expected. But what does that mean for work in transport or logistics? In this article, we break down what's coming and what it could mean for the future.

Uber's Robotaxis: Coming to the UK

Uber is planning to launch its self-driving taxi service in the UK, starting with London. Their goal is to launch the robotaxi in 2026.

These vehicles use sensors, cameras, and software to drive without human input. They've been tested in the US and are now edging closer to UK streets. But the go-ahead depends on UK regulations.

When will autonomous vehicles be allowed on UK roads?

The government is working on The Automated Vehicles Bill and it is moving through Parliament and, if things go to plan, a legal framework could be in place by the end of 2025.

That would enable firms to begin offering self-driving taxi services, under strict safety and insurance rules.

We're likely to see a phased rollout, starting with

shuttle routes and campus transport before wider use in city centres. Most people probably won't ride in an autonomous vehicle until 2026 or 2027.

What about jobs in transport and logistics?

If you're a driver, you've probably wondered what this means for your job. The reality is that if autonomous vehicles are successful, traditional driving roles will reduce. As technology improves, automation will take over more journeys.

That shift will be significant. But it also brings opportunity. The sector will need more people in skilled roles: vehicle techs, remote operators, software support, fleet managers, and safety leads. These jobs are likely to be better paid and more secure in the long run.

What happens next?

For those in transport and logistics, it's a big shift. But with change comes opportunity. With the right preparation, this will open opportunities for new career paths that are built for the future.



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Kirstie Wilson Appointed As New Partner of Hawsons Chartered Accountants

Hawsons Chartered Accountants are delighted to announce the appointment of Kirstie Wilson as our newest Partner.

Kirstie is a highly experienced auditor and chartered accountant, and has worked with a wide range of clients of varying sizes and industries throughout her career so far. This appointment brings a wealth of experience in both audit and accounting services to the Hawsons team. Kirstie holds a Diploma in Charity Accounting awarded by the ICAEW, and also holds RI status, so acts for a number of audit clients.

Kirstie will be based out of our Doncaster office alongside Partners, Paul Wormald and Dan Wood. The addition of Kirstie to our Partner team will enable us to strengthen our service offering out of our Doncaster Office, continuing a period of sustained growth. Kirstie's knowledge and expertise will provide new ideas and perspectives on client advisory, audit quality, and sector-specific expertise, particularly in the charity sector.

Pete Wilmer, Senior Partner at Hawsons, stated:

"Absolutely thrilled for Kirstie to be joining as our latest

partner addition, fresh perspectives are always welcome and delighted that you've chosen Hawsons for the next phase of your career. Already looking forward to what the future holds".

Kirstie Wilson commented:

"I'm delighted to be joining Hawsons at such an exciting time for the firm. I'm looking forward to contributing to the continued growth of our Doncaster, as well as further developing our work within the charity sector. Hawsons has always valued the strength of long-term client relationships which is something I pride myself on, so I'm excited to build on this tradition while also helping to drive innovation and strengthen our advisory offering"

You can contact Kirstie at kmw@hawsons.co.uk, or on 01302 367 262



UK Spending Review – How the Transport and Logistics Sector is Expected to Benefit

Chancellor Rachel Reeves' spending review on 11th June 2025 highlighted plans to revitalize the UK's transport infrastructure. With major investment pledged for rail, bus networks, and airport development, as well as a strong focus on boosting connectivity in regions outside of London, this marks a pivotal moment for the UK's transport sector, and its role in driving nationwide growth.

Investment into Railway Projects

The Chancellor has pledged to invest further sums of money into ongoing long-term rail projects, such as £3.5 billion towards the TransPennine route upgrade, and £2.5 billion towards the East-West rail link. This represents a further commitment to modernise the main rail connection across the North of England, and the reestablishment of a direct Oxford to Cambridge rail link that was closed in the 1960's. These projects promise to enhance regional connectivity, reduce journey times, and support the shift towards greener, lower-carbon transport.

For the logistics sector, improved rail networks are expected to ease road congestion and increase rail freight capacity.

However, concerns remain around the timescales needed to deliver these projects, as well as concerns around whether the investment is sufficient enough. With the East-West rail project expected to be operational by the early 2030s, coupled with lingering doubts as to whether the route will ever actually be completed in full, and the TransPennine route upgrade expected to be fully complete by 2041, there is still a long way to go. However, the announcement of the significant investment boost still marks a crucial step towards addressing decades of underinvestment into national infrastructure, especially outside of London.

Possibly more significant so far as new spending is concerned is the £15.6 billion announced for local transport projects in Greater Manchester, the West and East Midlands, West and South Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, and Liverpool. These centre around light rail, tram/train, and mass transit systems and upgrades/extensions to existing networks.

Continued overleaf.



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UK Spending Review – How the Transport and Logistics Sector is Expected to Benefit (Continued)

Paul Wormald, Transport and Logistics expert at Hawsons stated,

“This investment is a welcome step forward for the UK’s transport and logistics sector. Upgraded rail infrastructure will boost freight capacity, reduce delivery times, and improve regional connectivity — all of which are vital for strengthening supply chains and driving economic growth. The development and extension of light rail systems in the regions should hopefully reduce congestion caused by commuter traffic, freeing up capacity on the roads for local freight traffic. However, whilst the spending announcement for projects outside of London is welcome, the sums announced only just tops the £18.9 billion spent on the Elizabeth Line in London, so it remains to be seen what long term appetite the government has to seeing these projects through to completion when their costs inevitably increase.”

How important is the railway for UK Logistics?

In March 2023, approximately 8% of the UK’s total domestic freight movement was carried by rail — equating to 16 billion tonne-kilometres. Investing in and upgrading the UK’s rail infrastructure will deliver

widespread benefits, not just for rail freight operators but also for road hauliers. Shifting more long-distance freight to rail can help reduce road congestion, shorten journey times, and significantly lower carbon emissions. This enables road transport to focus more efficiently on short-haul and last-mile deliveries, improving speed, reliability, and flexibility across the entire supply chain. Therefore, the Chancellor’s announcement to enhancing the rail network is a critical step toward strengthening the UK’s logistics ecosystem in the long term.

Transport & Logistics Accountants

At Hawsons Chartered Accountants, we have a dedicated team of specialist transport and logistics accountants. We act for a large number of clients in this sector across our three offices, ranging from hauliers to international couriers, and understand the challenges this dynamic sector faces. With our experience in the transport and logistics sector we are able to develop a close understanding of your business and, through active year round involvement, we can help you anticipate and deal with challenges quickly and effectively. Contact our **transport and logistics sector specialists** to see how we can support your organisation.



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Check Out These Pictures From Our Recent Charity Days and Events!

Over the past couple of months, Hawsons Chartered Accountants have hosted a number of charity days and events as part of our commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Read more about each of the events below, and check out some of our best photos from each event above!

Volunteering Days

In June, staff volunteered at Thornberry Animal Sanctuary, getting involved with tasks such as dog walking, cleaning kennels, horse and donkey grooming, and even cleaning out stables! Thornberry Animal Sanctuary is a rescue centre based in South Yorkshire which is home to a variety of animals such as dogs, cats, rabbits, horses and donkeys!

In July our staff attended Paces School to help paint the fence in their playground! Paces School for Conductive Education specialises in supporting children with Cerebral Palsy and other neurological disorders.

Master Cutler's Challenge

On Friday 11th July, Hawsons hosted a charity football tournament as part of our Master Cutler's Challenge attempts, raising money for Sheffield Hospital's Charity Dementia appeal. 10 teams battled it out in the 30-degree heat, and it was CMS UK who came out on top!

Over £1,600 was raised for Sheffield Hospitals Charity, which will help them improve hospital spaces and activities, provide specialist training for NHS staff, volunteers and family carers, and help people with dementia to live independently!

HLB Communities Day

Throughout the months of June and July, staff at Hawsons Chartered Accountants have been collecting donations for the S6 Foodbank (Sheffield), Trussell Trust (Doncaster), and RSPCA Northamptonshire Branch (Northampton). This has all been part of HLB Communities Day 2025, where HLB member firms come together to give back to our local communities!



Inheritance Tax Changes: Is Your Business at Risk?

If you've been under the impression that Inheritance Tax (IHT) changes are a distant concern, it's time to reconsider. Recent reforms are set to significantly impact business owners and farmers, particularly those with businesses or farms with values exceeding £1 million. The changes to Business Property Relief (BPR) and Agricultural Property Relief (APR) could have profound implications for your estate planning. Whilst, the impact of the APR changes for farmers has been in the headlines for IHT changes next year, the changes to BPR for business owners is just as crucial.

What's changing?

Let's break it down, BPR has been a lifeline for family-owned businesses allowing shares in qualifying businesses to be passed down free of Inheritance Tax. However, the goal posts have shifted and the government has announced that [from 6 April 2026] 100% BPR will be limited to the first £1m of qualifying assets with a rate of 50% thereafter.

These changes mirror the changes to APR. These changes could mean that a portion of your estate is going to become taxable.

Could this affect you?

Your IHT liability could be significantly increased if your business or farm has assets exceeding £1 million as of April 2026. Therefore, we recommend you consider the following:

- Estate Valuation
- Succession Planning
- Trust Structures

Aaron Hemmington, Tax Partner at Hawsons said,

"The proposal for April 2026 IHT changes are creating lots of uncertainty for business owners and farmers. Acting now means you have time to explore structures and futureproof your business or estate."

Where Hawsons come in?

We work closely with business owners from all sectors including but not limited to farms and family-run businesses helping them to understand the proposed changes. We will offer practical, pro-active solutions with a clear view of where you stand. Still unsure if it affects you, contact aaronhemmington@hawsons.co.uk or call 01604 645600.



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Get in touch



Our experts

We act for a large number of clients in this sector across our three offices, ranging from hauliers to international couriers, and understand the challenges this dynamic sector faces.

Nearly every other commercial sector is reliant on the services transport and logistic businesses provide and, in many ways, this specialist sector is the linchpin for our country's economy.

With our experience in the transport and logistics sector we are able to develop a close understanding of your business and, through active year round involvement, we can help you anticipate and deal with challenges quickly and effectively.



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