

RHA An Introduction



Driving Business on our Roads

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About us

Established in 1944, the Road Haulage Association (RHA) is the UK's only trade association dedicated to the operators of commercial vehicles - trucks, coaches and vans.

With 8,500 members, ranging from owner operators to those with fleets of over 2,000 vehicles, RHA membership accounts for over 250,000 commercial vehicles currently operating on UK roads.

The RHA actively campaigns on behalf of our members on an ever-increasing range of issues, from cost pressures and regulation, to tackling the skills shortage, improving driver facilities and welfare, and decarbonising the road haulage industry. Working closely with the UK government, devolved administrations and local government has enabled the RHA to secure a range of policy wins for members and increase support for the sector across all four nations of the UK.

The RHA has a substantial commercial arm offering a range of membership services including audits and compliance and support from a national helpdesk. As a training provider, the RHA's driver training schools in Bathgate and Peterborough bring new talent into the industry, training over 400 new drivers in the last year.

With a mission to be the go-to organisation for driving business on our roads, the RHA is a powerful voice for the UK's road transport industry, focused on promoting best practice and delivering change to support our members to grow, advance their interests and champion their views.





Our 6 values

Collaborative

We are ONE organisation working together as a team to provide the very best for our membership and industry.

Trusted Partner

We listen to our membership, stakeholders and the wider industry. Their interests are at the heart of everything we do. We are regarded as the trusted 'go to' organisation.



Supportive

It is important to us that our members consider us to be part of their organisation providing exceptional support whenever they need it.

Quality

We ensure that the products and services we provide to our members and the industry are always of the highest quality.



Relevance

We strive to ensure that there is always relevance and value in all that we do.

Knowledgeable

Our staff are experts in their chosen field, accepting nothing but the best for our membership.



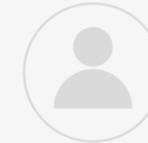
2023



in numbers

22

Regional Council meetings hosted across the country + 6 Welsh forum + sub regions + 6 coach forums



Trained 250 new drivers in Peterborough and Bathgate



50

member briefings held across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

Responded to over **5,500** Helpdesk enquiries



Celebrated the 9th National Lorry Week



Held the second ever National Coach Week



11

editions of Roadway magazine published



20 consultation responses submitted



Met with 20 UK Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers

Raised issues with 250 Members of the UK, Scottish and Welsh Parliament

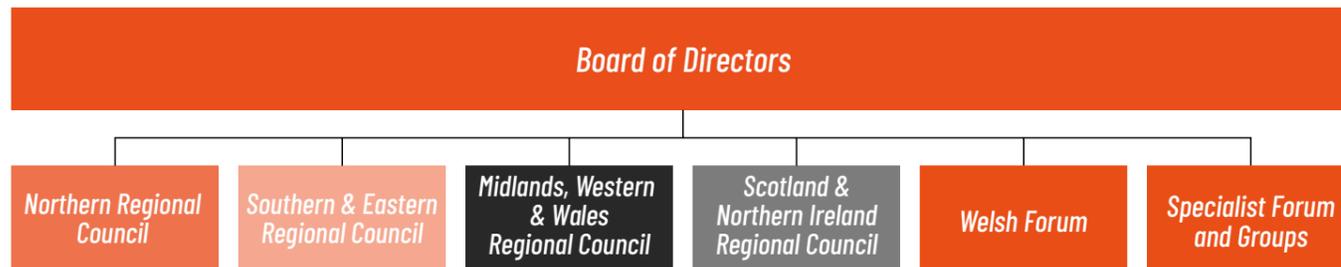
Our members

The RHA has been looking after its members for 80 years, offering services that help them deliver continuous and effective management of their operations while at the same time protecting their commercial interests.

With bespoke membership options for individuals and organisations across all commercial vehicle sectors, from haulage firms to coach operators, van fleet owners to professionals, becoming an RHA member provides immediate access to everything a business needs to run a compliant operation. The RHA's conditions of carriage are regarded as the industry standard and protect members by limiting their liability under common law. Each type of membership has a tailor-made set of benefits. A dedicated Area Manager and a national helpdesk that provides end to end support on issues from regulatory compliance to employment law.



Our Membership Structure



At grassroots level, the Association has several groups or forums which allow members to contribute thoughts and views in a structured environment.

These include the Association's sub-regions, as well as several specialist groups which support members with their specialisms such as international transport, waste transport and car transporting to name some examples.

Beyond this, there are four Regional Councils: Southern and Eastern, Northern, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and Midlands, Western and Wales. Each council has up to 30 elected members who are all representatives of member organisations and attend the regional council meetings representing their areas.

Sitting above the four Regional Councils is the Association's Board of Directors comprising three members from each Regional Council, with four from Midlands, Western and Wales due to the region's size. In addition to these 13 directors, the Board may co-opt up to three more directors to support its work.



Membership Types



Main membership
support for transport and logistics operations



Associate membership
raise the profile of businesses within the road transport industry



Van membership
support for van and fleet operators



Coach membership
support for operators providing essential transport passenger services



Professional membership
support for new and existing professionals within the sector



Individual membership
created to benefit those who are not the owners of haulage companies



Clearing house membership
for transport clearing houses



Freight forwarder membership
for freight forwarders



Trailer and container operators
for operators, owners or providers of trailers and containers

Our Specialist Groups and Forums

RHA members can access a variety of [specialist groups and forums](#). These are ideal for connecting with industry experts, finding out about latest industry information and sharing sector specific advice.



Abnormal Loads Group



Car Transporters Group



International Group



Livestock and Milk Group



Waste Management Group



Tanker Group



Transport Warehousing and Pallet Distribution Group



National Agricultural Foods and Tipping Group



Net Zero Forum



Waste Management Group

Our services

Our range of services enhance your credibility and professional standing, supporting you to remain complaint.



Helpdesk

Our experts are on hand to offer free advice exclusively to RHA members.



Technical Services

RHA Analysis, RHA Fleet and Defect app.



Compliance

Supporting operators to remain complaint.



The Operators' Handbook

The RHA Operators' Handbook is recognised as one of the key membership benefits.



Vehicle Inspections

Our vehicle inspection services ensure your vehicles are roadworthy and their maintenance is of the required standard.



RHA Training

Our training courses are some of the most respected in the UK available to members at exclusive discounted rates.



Member Assistance Programme (MAP)

A confidential service to help people deal with personal or work-related challenges.



Legal Services

Exclusive to members, Legal service from the RHA provides comprehensive advice, support and representation through its qualified and industry specific lawyers.



Active Campaigning

A track record of working with government, industry officials and local authorities to shape the policies and legislation.



Specialist Advice and Information

Access to specialist groups who provide specific sector representation, expert intelligence and insight on security, infrastructure and more.



Intelligence and Insight

Our reports such as the fuel survey, pay survey and costs movement survey are compiled and circulated regularly to help members run more efficient and profitable operations.



Conditions of Carriage

The RHA Conditions of Carriage are recognised as the industry standard and are copyrighted for the exclusive use of RHA members. The RHA Conditions of Carriage are designed to clearly define the legal relationship between the carrier and the customer.



Truck Cartel

RHA is bringing the only UK collective claim against the Truck Cartel to obtain compensation for road transport operators who purchased or leased trucks from 1997 onwards.



Dedicated Area Managers:

Our highly experienced experts, sourced from across the industry, represent the RHA on the ground and are able to provide you with local support and access to key decision makers in your area.

Our Business Partners offer you the products and services which can help you stay compliant and operational, and support you with any day-to-day needs your business may have.

- RHA Legal
- RHA Fuel Card
- RHA Insurance Services
- RHA Leasing and Rental
- RHA Medical
- RHA Business Finances
- Drug and Alcohol
- RHA Drivers Handbook
- RHA Energy Services
- Customs

For more details, see our full membership services brochure.

Campaign priorities

The RHA campaigns on issues affecting the road transport sector, highlighting the vital role of our members in keeping the country running. Working closely with the UK government, devolved administrations and local government, the RHA is a leading authority on the needs of the industry, providing insight and contributing to policy making and legislative development.

Members are supported through effective lobbying, networking opportunities and strong relationships with policy makers. The RHA provides a powerful voice for the UK's road transport industry, focused on delivering change to support our members to grow, advance their interests and champion their views.

The RHA is focused on six priority areas for 2024, covering key issues affecting operators across the industry:



skills
Ensure we have a diverse skilled workforce across the whole industry now and in the future.

driver facilities
More parking spaces, better facilities, stronger security.

environment
Embracing opportunities and protecting businesses on the road to net zero.

international
Removing obstacles to doing business internationally both at the border and on the roads.

costs & regulation
Making it easier for businesses to do business through lower costs and simpler regulation.

infrastructure
Encouraging investment in roads, new technology and connectivity for economic growth.



It can often be difficult for an individual business to make their voice heard to government.

We leverage the joint strength of their members to amplify their impact on policy decisions. By uniting businesses within the road haulage and coach industry, our policy team have the authority to collectively advocate for positive change.

With lobbying and advocacy being a key focus of the RHA, we have strong resources to influence those making decisions, maintain relationships with legislators, and launch campaigns that advocate for positive change for the road haulage and coach industry, and we advocate on our members behalf against unhelpful legislation and regulations.

We have deep industry and technical knowledge, historical insight into legislative and regulatory issues, and an extensive network of policymakers. This creates a better business environment for our members and put forth legislative and regulatory solutions for challenges hindering the growth within the industry.

Political Engagement

The role that we play in influencing policy decisions to promote the road haulage and coach sectors is vital. Through collective advocacy, expertise, relationship building, lobbying, and campaigning the RHA exert a significant influence on the formation of legislation.

Representation in Parliament

We make use of the avenues to represent our members directly to Parliamentarians. There are several methods of achieving this, we regularly meet with MPs regarding issues most closely affecting our members, we table Parliamentary questions, and we provide briefing materials ahead of debates. We also engage with Select Committees and host Parliamentary receptions to support our campaigns.

All Party Parliamentary Groups

The RHA act as the secretariat for the Future of Road Freight APPG which brings together Parliamentarians and industry experts to discuss the most pressing needs of the sector. We also represent the RHA at several other APPGs related to road freight, skills, and fuel.



Policy Influence

As part of our engagement, we seek to share our knowledge to positively influence policy. We do this by responding to consultations, publishing policy papers on the issues that impact the sector and meeting with senior civil servants at government departments to affect change.

We have a strong track record of ensuring that industries concerns are heard by policy makers. Our team link the industry to decision makers and help shape regulation nationally and locally.

Regional Engagement

Some programmes like Clean Air Zones are not administered by Parliament but by local councils, authorities, and Metro Mayors. Because of this we work to influence local transport plans by engaging directly with the decision makers who impact the business of our members.

Member Visits

As well as representing our members to policy makers, we bring policy makers directly to our members. We regularly organise site visits for high level Parliamentary stakeholders so that they can hear our members voices and concerns directly.

Seat at the top table

The RHA are trusted as one of the government's key industry stakeholders. This allows us to regularly be the face of the road haulage industry, representing our members at the top table.

The RHA works to build strong relationships with key decision-makers within government agencies, parliamentary bodies, and regulatory authorities, establishing ourselves as the trusted voice on issues affecting the road haulage industry. By providing industry data and insights, we contribute to policy discussions, emphasising the economic and societal significance of efficient and reliable road haulage.

Frequently we meet with government and shadow ministers, influential members of Parliament and sit on key departmental groups like the Department for Transport's Freight Council.



The RHA has a strong track record of ensuring that members' voices are heard by policy makers. Our team link the industry to decision makers and help shape the future of the road transport sector nationally and locally.

From tackling the HGV driver skills shortage to securing investment in lorry parking facilities, the RHA's campaigning secured a range of policy wins for its members throughout 2022.

This summary highlights RHA's hard-won progress on behalf of members across many of the key issues we have campaigned on. From wins tackling the skills shortage of HGV drivers to much needed investment in lorry parking facilities, we are here to create the right environment for our members to grow.

Driver facilities - More parking spaces, better facilities and stronger security

- UK Government driver facilities taskforce established.
- National audit of lorry parking spaces published.
- £52.5 million grant funding scheme to improve driver facilities.
- New UK Government Minister for haulage established.

Supporting Northern Ireland hauliers

- GB-NI Trader Support Service extension
- Windsor Framework support for groupage movements

Net zero - Embracing opportunities and protecting business on the road to net zero

- Scottish Government Zero Emission Truck Taskforce established.
- Government invests £200 million in trialling zero emission HGVs
- Department for Transport consulting on exemptions to phase out of diesel HGVs

A strong local voice

- Government taskforce established to tackle Tamar Bridge tolls
- Cambridge City Council to scrap plans for a congestion charge
- Oxfordshire postpones plans to expand Zero Emission Zone
- Manchester Clean Air Zone delayed and under review
- Bath Council drops plans to charge Euro IV HGVs
- Burford lorry ban overturned

Costs - Making it easier for businesses to do business through lower costs and simpler regulation

- Fuel duty cut and excise duty freeze extended
- Sleeper Cab Allowance Scheme - extended
- Vehicle Excise Duty for HGVs frozen
- Businesses receive energy discount from Energy Bill Relief Scheme, a six-month scheme
- Fuel rebate scheme introduced in Northern Ireland

Regulation

- Extension of Longer Semi Trailer trial
- Longer heavier vehicles (LHVs) feasibility study undertaken
- Secured change in 28-day tacho recordings
- Consultation on removal of the 50km restriction on 18-20-year-old bus and coach drivers
- Easing of restrictions on abnormal load movements
- UK Government Future of Freight plan published

Planning reform - Encouraging investment in roads, new technology and connectivity for economic growth

- Planning advice to local councils updated
- Streamlined process for the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process

Skills - Ensure we have a diverse, skilled workforce across the whole industry now and in the future

- Funding for HGV, mechanic and warehouse apprenticeships increased
- Skills Bootcamps for HGV drivers extended
- Review of Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)



Our events



Forum for the Future

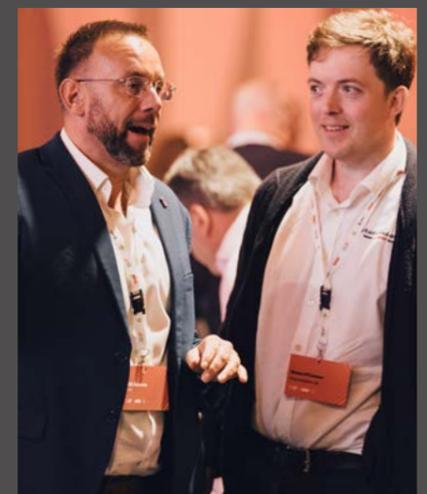
Member Briefings

Our member briefings across the country provide industry updates from RHA regional teams covering hot topics of interest to HGV, coach and van members including regulation, compliance, employment and legal support and covering the basics of operator licensing. We work with Traffic Commissioners, Government agencies including National Crime Agency and Border Force to provide guidance for operators.



Our annual conference brings together industry experts, thought leaders and visionaries to discuss pressing issues and explore sustainable solutions for a better future, offering transport operators vital insights on future proofing their businesses. Topics include making your business future fit, decarbonisation, regulation and much more.

This year's event saw us launch our Member Assistance Programme (MAP) - a confidential service to help members' employees deal with personal or work-related challenges. It's a 24/7/365 service run by PAM Wellbeing, staffed by qualified counsellors to offer support to those who need it.



Commercial Vehicle Show



The Commercial Vehicle Show is the largest and most comprehensive road freight transport, distribution, and logistics event in the United Kingdom. The show offers commercial vehicle manufacturers, dealers, distributors, and hundreds of sector suppliers an energetic event based on an established brand first launched in 2000.

Brand new for 2024 is a 3 day class-leading on-site seminar to complement the extensive exhibition, covering all of the 'hot topics' including decarbonisation, skills, compliance and international. With all the latest vehicles, trailers, equipment, and technology on display, the 2024 Commercial Vehicle Show will be unmissable for thousands of decision-makers, directors, senior managers, engineers, and anyone operating commercial vehicles as part of their business.

For operators, it is the annual meeting place to network, and for sector suppliers, the ultimate event to showcase your brand and products to a huge audience of prospective customers.



National Lorry Week

National Lorry Week (NLW) is the RHA's annual campaign showcasing the road haulage industry and shining a light on the businesses and people who keep us all fed, clothed and supplied. National Lorry Week aims to challenge the misconceptions people have about road haulage and promote the wide ranging, exciting and fulfilling careers available in transport and logistics for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The annual road trip sees the RHA's truck visit farms, producers, factories, warehouses, truck stops, small businesses and colleges across all four nations of the UK, meeting members, industry partners, councillors, and Members of the UK, Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, and showcasing the sector through first-hand experience of driving a lorry. Our annual parliamentary reception provides members with the opportunity to meet MPs and Peers and discuss key issues facing the road haulage sector.



National Coach Week

National Coach Week celebrates the unique role of coaches in public transport and the wider economy, securing support from politicians to help celebrate the role of coaches, establish the different needs of the coach industry to the bus industry and garnering support for key policy priorities amongst decision makers.

The week aims to raise the profile of the work which the industry does, day in day out. Whether it's for leisure, tourism, sport or educational purposes, coaches provide an essential service to thousands of passengers every year.



Roadway

The award-winning Roadway is the RHA's official magazine, available to all members.

It features the road transport industry's news, views and developments, and is the first port of call for comprehensive policy, employment, compliance and legislative updates for road haulage, coach and van operators.

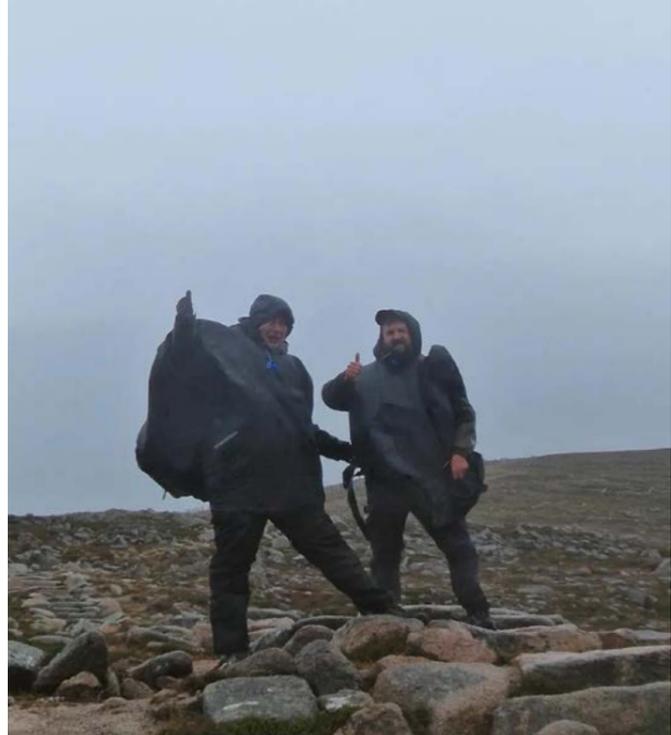
Written by experienced industry professionals, including RHA policy, technical and legal experts who work with legislators and regulators to help shape the future of the industry, Roadway provides the complete business picture for road haulage and logistics.



Our teams







Our partners



RHA Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund is the RHA's charity. From buying food and clothing to helping with bills and funding training, the RHA Benevolent Fund is open to anyone in the road transport industry and provides help when times are tough.

Over the years the Benevolent Fund has helped hundreds of people with things like:

- Buying food, clothing and white goods.
- Contributing towards outstanding bills and priority debt such as mortgage or rental arrears.
- Funding for training – redundant drivers can apply for a free Driver CPC or driver medical to help them return to work.
- Purchasing much-needed aid equipment such as wet rooms, wheelchairs and specialist beds.
- Undertaking essential home improvements.
- Covering travel expenses for hospital visits.

Find out more about the RHA's Benevolent Fund [here](#).

"I will soon be able to resume employment and regain my independence. Without the help of the RHA, driving trucks again may not have been achievable." – **Beneficiary**

"We applied for assistance from the fund to help towards funeral expenses for my father who was a lifelong truck driver." – **Beneficiary**

"One of our drivers suffered a stroke which prevented him from driving a truck again. The Fund helped him with the financial stress he found himself in." – **Moreton Cullimore, RHA Chairperson and Managing Director, Cullimore Group of Companies**

Find out more:



Stay connected with the RHA

	Website	rha.uk.net
	X/Twitter	@RHANews
	Facebook	/RoadHaulageAssociation
	LinkedIn	/road-haulage-association
	YouTube	TheRoadHaulageAssociation

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