



PRESS RELEASE

UNION ATTACKS ANNOUNCEMENT TO DELAY COUNTY DURHAM PLANT

The Northern Region's biggest general trade union today bitterly attacked the Coalition Government over the decision to delay any final announcement until 2011 at the earliest, in relation to the proposed Hitachi Inter City re-building project at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham.

The Government has announced that a consortium led by Japanese company Hitachi, which was the preferred bidder to build carriages and trains at a site in Newton Aycliffe and which would bring at least 800 new jobs to County Durham, would have to wait until next year for a further announcement.

The GMB Union which has thousands of members in trades involved in train manufacture and in supply companies, said that the dithering buy the Government would not help the North East economy or the wider UK, at a time when help for the private sector was essential.

GMB Northern Regional Secretary Tom Brennan said:

'The GMB has played an important role in the quest to bring Hitachi to the North East. Many GMB members involved directly and indirectly in this industry will be disgusted by the Government's announcement.

What will be particularly galling to our members and their families is that Tory and Liberal Democrat MPs and Councillors in this Region have not lifted a finger to support this important project.

This Coalition Government can't have it both ways, slash as a matter of dogma public spending, rely on a private sector led recovery, but deny companies the means to trade.'

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Contact: Chris Jukes Political Officer 07870 176733

