



The Association of
Pallet Networks

APN calls for fuel duty derogation to help the UK logistics industry fulfil its vital role during time of national crisis

The UK logistics industry needs a fuel duty derogation to help it continue to provide essential services at a time of economic stress, says the Association of Pallet Networks

19 March 2020 Birmingham, UK – The [Association of Pallet Networks \(APN\)](http://www.apn.co.uk), representing eight pallet networks and almost 800 UK hauliers, is calling on government to suspend fuel duty for the logistics industry with immediate effect.

Like most businesses, haulage firms are currently suffering substantial disruption, unpredictable order patterns and diminishing demand from many customers – yet these operations must continue to ensure the supply of essential goods and to support critical services.

APN chairman Paul Sanders is writing to the [Road Haulage Association](#), and the [Freight Transport Association](#) to ask their aid in lobbying the Treasury for a derogation to take pressure off our most essential supply chain businesses.

HGVs deliver approximately 90+% of UK freight, lifting 1.41 bn tonnes in 2018 and moving 152bn tonne kilometres. Multimodal operations (eg also using trains for freight movements) accounts for only a small percentage of freight, and all freight requires final mile deliveries by HGVs.

Sanders says: “The majority of UK haulage operations are small or SME businesses. Their business model is very vulnerable to cash flow issues and their fuel bills usually account for between 30 and 40% of operating costs.

“A derogation on fuel duty could make a huge difference to business continuity and in minimising the number of losses from our sector,” he adds.

“The UK logistics industry is in the spotlight right now, providing one of the most important jobs next to healthcare. It is imperative we do all we can to ensure business continuity and the protection of vital jobs and distribution services.”

About the APN

The Association of Pallet Networks represents the UK’s eight pallet networks which between them comprise 30,000 employees, 23,500 vehicles and 750 depots throughout the country. APN members distributed over 26 million pallets of supplies throughout the UK in 2019 and offer 100% coverage by

postcode. APN also oversees the promulgation of health and safety advice, lobbies government on behalf of the sector, and enables the networks to benchmark their performance, efficiency and safety.

For more information call APN chairman Paul Sanders on 01543 420120 | 07831 480048 or e-mail chairman@theapn.co.uk