

Tim Griffiths
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Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
LONDON
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Date:
30 January 2007

Dear Tim,

PERIODIC REVIEW CONSULTATION ON CAPS FOR FREIGHT ACCESS CHARGES

Transport Scotland wishes to respond to the Office of Rail Regulation's consultation on the above. This response does not contain any confidential or privileged information and can therefore be made public.

Scottish Ministers' objective is to secure modal shift from road to rail freight. This requires a stable regime of track access charging and the proposal to set variable track access charges at an efficient long-term price will provide certainty and clarity.

Recognising that the rail freight market is both internal to Scotland and cross-border, and that operators face a GB-wide competitive environment, it is clear that there needs to be a seamless regime across the entire GB rail network. Discussions have taken place between officials at the Department for Transport and Transport Scotland on the matters contained within the consultation and Transport Scotland supports the views of the Department for Transport contained in their response.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pugh
Head of Rail Regulation and Standards