

Gill James
Manager, Railtrack Regulation
Office of the Rail Regulator '
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 High Holborn
London EC IN 2TQ

30 March 2001

Dear Gill,

Response on behalf of FirstGroup Train Operators to modification of Railtrack's
Network Licence: reporters, regulatory accounts and annual return

We refer to Michael Beswick's letter of 8 March 2001 inviting our comments in relation to the proposed modifications to Railtrack's network licence referred to above. This letter sets out the response on behalf of First Great Western, First North Western and First Great Eastern.

We wish to confirm the strong support of FirstGroup TOCs to the proposed changes. We welcome the provision for publication of the information and wish to highlight the importance of its availability to us and our suppliers (particularly rolling stock suppliers) for use in the effective management of, and planning for, our relationships with Railtrack. This applies both to day to day operations and investments in rolling stock and infrastructure. We are concerned at the extent to which the rail industry has been hampered to date by inadequacy of information regarding the network and look forward to this being rectified.

Yours sincerely

Mike Bagshaw
Contracts & Compliance Manager