

Richard Gusanie
Track Access Executive
Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

15th August 2007

Dear Richard,

ORR track access criteria and procedures review: the way forward

I refer here to the consultation document issued by ORR seeking comment from the industry on its proposals for carrying forward the review of criteria and procedures for the approval of track access contracts begun in February of this year.

This letter sets down the considered response of First/Keolis Transpennine Limited ("First TransPennine Express") to the proposal been made by ORR in that consultation document.

First TransPennine Express is in broad support of the conclusions that ORR has drawn from the consultations made so far and appreciates the consolidation and clarification of ORR's approach in this latest consultation document. First TransPennine Express is in support of the way forward proposed by this consultation and believes that the direction proposed is the correct one. It therefore awaits the detailed results of the review processes proposed and will reserve further comment until more detailed proposals have been developed. An appropriate moment to present and discuss the development of the proposals would be a workshop similar to that hosted by ORR earlier in the year, as proposed in paragraph 3.8.

First TransPennine Express looks forward to the results of the review as proposed by ORR in this consultation.

Yours sincerely

George Thomas
Access Manager
First TransPennine Express