

# Department for **Transport**

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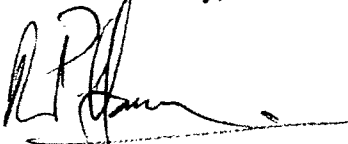
Dear David,

## **TRACK ACCESS RIGHTS ON THE EAST COAST MAIN LINE**

With reference to the ORR's letter of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in relation to aspirations for access rights on the East Coast Main Line (ECML), which sent to all holders/known potential applicants for track access rights and access options, and copied to the DfT, the DfT wishes to make the following comments:

- (1) As a potential access option holder, the DfT does not have any aspirations to acquire access options on the ECML.
- (2) Inter-City Express Programme (IEP) train suppliers will want a considerable number of test paths in 2012 to 2014 that will use significant ECML capacity. The programme is subject to ongoing competition at this time, but it is envisaged access would be sought through the operator to whom the chosen supplier will contract with to operate the test trains.
- (3) DfT suggests that it would be of mutual benefit that ORR consults with the DfT once all the responses are received, to enable the DfT to advise on which aspirations we would support, extent of franchise commitments, likely effect on public purse, IEP, etc.

Yours sincerely,



**Ray Harris**