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Our Ref: CK/JB/CON148
Your Ref:
Date: 25 April 2005

Dear Sir

Policy Framework for Investments: An Initial Consultation February 2005

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the above document.

The framework for investments in rail infrastructure is very complex and on this basis we have not commented in detail on the document. We would simply wish to comment that whilst rail is seen as a key mode of transport for tackling congestion, long distance travel and for freight transport, the high cost of rail infrastructure is effectively making rail uncompetitive when compared with other modes. We would hope that there is some means of mitigating this high cost and that rail can take its place in the integrated transport solutions which we all seek in combating our transport problems.

We look forward to receiving further information on how this policy will be taken forward.

Yours sincerely



Sam MacNaughton
Head of Transport and Infrastructure