



**Merseytravel**

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**Our ref:** RAIL/DD/NS/JG

**Your ref:**

**Contact:** Mr Dave Davenport

**Tel:** 0151 330 1250

**Date:** 22 January 2007

Emma Kelso  
Senior Economist  
Office of Rail Regulation  
1 Kemble Street  
London WC2B 4AN

Dear *Emma*

### **Reservation Charges Consultation Document**

Merseytravel welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above document.


- We agree with the proposal of a low "flat rate" charge, levied on a "£ per right basis" a charge that does not vary with distance or time of day.
- We feel that operators should not be penalised when they do not use a right through no fault of their own, such as over-running of engineering works etc.
- Operators should be allowed a "grace period" at the beginning of CP4 to divest unused rights before the charge commences.
- A reservation charge would provide an incentive for operators to give up headroom that is surplus to requirements.
- It is imperative that any scheme devised ensures that administrative costs are kept to the minimum.
- We would be in favour of model 1 and also excluding passenger operators from the scheme on the grounds that (a) they are likely to hold very few rights, which they do not use; and (b) the reservation charge does not create an incentive for franchised passenger service operators.

None of the above is confidential.

Regards.

Yours sincerely

Neil Scales  
**Chief Executive & Director General**

 Joe Clarke  
Passenger Transport  
Authority of the Year  
Award Winner 2005

national  
transport  
awards

**Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and Executive**  
Chief Executive & Director General - Neil Scales

Director of Resources - Jim Barclay Director of Operations - Alan Stilwell

