

**Strategy and Investment**

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,  
Glasgow G4 0HF  
Direct Line: 0141 272 7412, Fax: 0141  
272 7538  
Alan.martin@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk



Brian Hopkinson  
Track Access Executive  
Office of Rail Regulation  
One Kemble Street  
London  
EC2B 4AN

Your ref:

Our ref:  
NRS08-038

Date:  
27 May 2008

Dear Brian

**Grand Northern Railway Company Limited – application for a track access contract**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

This response should be read in conjunction with our chief executive Malcolm Reeds letter to your Mr Robertson of 04 April 2008 (enclosed) regarding Track Access Rights on the East Coast Main Line.

Transport Scotland is concerned that the resourcing, operational planning and contingency arrangements for open access passenger operators need to be robust, recognising the risks that their use of capacity imposes upon freight and franchised passenger operators' performance. Given the complexity of the East Coast Main Line it should be recognised that service perturbation on congested sections of the route has significant consequential impact upon both Anglo-Scottish and First ScotRail services when out-of-course running and disruption occurs.

Yours sincerely

*Alan Martin*

Alan Martin  
Network Regulation Manager

**Chief Executive's Office**

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,  
Glasgow G4 0HF  
Direct Line: 0141 272 7112 Fax: 0141 272  
7111  
chiefexecutive@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

David Robertson  
Head of Track Access  
Office of Rail Regulation  
One Kemble Street  
London  
WC2B 4AN

Our ref:  
NRS08-011

Date:  
4 April 2008

**Track Access Rights on the East Coast Main Line**

Thank you for email of 29 February 2008 concerning track access rights on the East Coast main line.

Transport Scotland do not currently bid for or hold access rights and therefore it would be inappropriate for us to complete the proforma supplied, we would however wish to make the following comments.

The ORR have noted within their consultation the importance of this significant part of the national network, Transport Scotland would like to re-emphasise the importance of Scottish Ministers' aspirations to improve journey times, as was previously highlighted in Scotland's Railways and the High Level Output Specification, as well as the Guidance issued by Scottish Ministers to ORR in 2006.

Whilst recognising that there is a clear requirement to ensure that the overall capacity of this route is optimised, it is requested that due consideration should be afforded to Scotland's need for availability in order to increase capacity at the top end for growth and the possibility of future expansion of services.

Any additional access rights on the ECML could have performance and growth implications for Scotland's railways and will therefore have to be considered in line with Ministers' long term aspirations of delivering improved services and a high speed rail link between Scotland and London. The challenges on this route are principally associated with volume of traffic and reliability of services. Due consideration should also be paid to the future capacity increase committed to by the National Express InterCity East Coast franchise which will deliver a significant acceleration to the Anglo- Scottish average journey times from December 2010.

I hope this is helpful.



**MALCOLM REED**

