

Direct Line: 0113 251 7279

5 June 2008

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DAH/JEO/RST3/T4308

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

*JAH  
12/6*

Dear Brian

### **HULL TRAINS – SERVICES BETWEEN HARROGATE AND KING’S CROSS - APPLICATION FOR TRACK ACCESS CONTRACT**

I refer to your email dated 28 May 2008 inviting comments on the application by Hull Trains for a track access contract for a Harrogate to London Kings Cross service under Section 17 of the Railways Act 1993.

As stated in my response to the recent application by Grand Northern Railway for a track access contract relating to services between Bradford and King’s Cross, Metro will generally support applications that provide greater levels of access to the rail network within the Leeds City Region and between the City Region and London.

In terms of the Harrogate Line, Metro has been working closely with partners on proposals to introduce a City Region ‘Metrocard’ (multi-modal ticket) beyond the West Yorkshire boundary and we will expect any future operators to participate in the development and implementation of such a scheme. We are also developing proposals for the introduction of tram-trains on the Harrogate Line (as set out in the Leeds City Region Transport Vision) and we will need to work closely with any future operator to understand how the proposals will interact with their services.

As with all applications, our support is conditional upon the operator’s proposed services having no detrimental impact upon those existing or currently proposed franchised services sharing various segments of the route within West Yorkshire. This is in relation to timetabling issues, performance risk and revenue risks.

As already referred to in responses to other consultation documents circulated by you recently, we are aware that other operators are also bidding for rights to provide services between the Leeds City Region and London and that there may, inevitably, be some competition for limited access rights. For this reason it is necessary that we carry out a more detailed review of the implications of each of these applications before any formal commitment could be made in support of each specific proposal.



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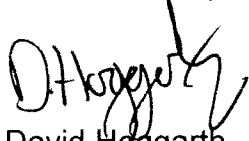
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We would therefore reinforce our desire to have the opportunity to work with you on an overall assessment of the proposed services and to assist with the deliberation on which of the proposals, or combination of proposals, offers the most satisfactory outcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Heggarth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Heggarth

**Director, Development**