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## **National Express East Coast 19<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Agreement**

Thank you for your email of 18<sup>th</sup> April inviting comments in respect of the additional rights being sought by National Express East Coast from May 2008.

Our comments are made against the background in which ORR recently sought details of operators' future aspirations over the ECML and to which we responded to David Robertson on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Hull Trains cannot currently support the proposal for the following reasons.

1. The proposal to establish a new right for an additional slot operating on Fridays Only between London and Edinburgh potentially conflicts with our own proposals, currently in discussion with Network Rail, to establish services between London and Harrogate during the December 2008 timetable period, and we would like to be satisfied that this proposal does not in any way inhibit the establishment of those services.
2. We are very concerned that the consumption of capacity on one day of the weekday dayset (i.e. Friday only) fossilises the effective use of the same capacity on the remaining days of the week for the development of other passenger services. This seriously inhibits more efficient utilisation of capacity across a whole week (Monday-Friday)
3. It appears that the proposal conflicts with an existing National Express path at 1930 from King's Cross to Leeds and we would like to understand how both paths are to be accommodated simultaneously, taking into account our concerns noted in paragraph 1.

4. We would like to understand how the proposal affects platform capacity at King's Cross and the extent to which capacity is reduced through increased layovers.

Hull Trains therefore requests responses to each of these issues and the provision of additional supporting information before commenting further.

Yours sincerely



Mark Leving  
Managing Director