

Consultation Questions

The answer boxes will expand as you type.

Procuring rail passenger services

1. What are the merits of offering the ScotRail franchise as a dual focus franchise and what services should be covered by the economic rail element, and what by the social rail element?

Q1 comments: Only responded to Q24

2. What should be the length of the contract for future franchises, and what factors lead you to this view?

Q2 comments:Only responded to Q24

3. What risk support mechanism should be reflected within the franchise?

Q3 comments:Only responded to Q24

4. What, if any, profit share mechanism should apply within the franchise?

Q4 comments:Only responded to Q24

5. Under what terms should third parties be involved in the operation of passenger rail services?

Q5 comments:Only responded to Q24

6. What is the best way to structure and incentivise the achievement of outcome measures whilst ensuring value for money?

Q6 comments:Only responded to Q24

7. What level of performance bond and/or parent company guarantees are appropriate?

Q7 comments:Only responded to Q24

8. What sanctions should be used to ensure the franchisee fulfils its franchise commitments?

Q8 comments:Only responded to Q24

Achieving reliability, performance and service quality

9. Under the franchise, should we incentivise good performance or only penalise poor performance?

Q9 comments:Only responded to Q24

10. Should the performance regime be aligned with actual routes or service groups, or should there be one system for the whole of Scotland?

Q10 comments:Only responded to Q24

11. How can we make the performance regime more aligned with passenger issues?

Q11 comments:Only responded to Q24

12. What should the balance be between journey times and performance?

Q12 comments:Only responded to Q24

13. Is a Service Quality Incentive Regime required? And if so should it cover all aspects of stations and service delivery, or just those being managed through the franchise?

Q13 comments:Only responded to Q24

14. What other mechanisms could be used for assessing train and station quality?

Q14 comments:Only responded to Q24

Scottish train services

15. Can better use be made of existing train capacity, such as increasing the permitted standing time beyond the limit of 10 minutes or increasing the capacity limit? What is an acceptable limit for standing times on rail services?

Q15 comments:Only responded to Q24

16. Should the number of services making use of interchange stations (both rail to rail and rail to other modes) be increased to reduce the number of direct services? What would be the opportunities and challenges of this?

Q16 comments:Only responded to Q24

17. Should Government direct aspects of service provision such as frequency and journey time, or would these be better determined by the franchisee based on customer demand?

Q17 comments:Only responded to Q24

18. What level of contract specification should we use for the next ScotRail franchise?

Q18 comments:Only responded to Q24

19. How should the contract incentivise the franchisee to be innovative in the provision of services?

Q19 comments:Only responded to Q24

Scottish rail fares

20. What should be the rationale for, and purpose of, our fares policy?

Q20 comments:Only responded to Q24

21. What fares should be regulated by government and what should be set on a commercial basis? Do your recommendations change by geographic area (the Strathclyde area example), or by type of journey (for example suburban or intercity)?

Q21 comments:Only responded to Q24

22. How should we achieve a balance between the taxpayer subsidy and passenger revenue contributions in funding the Scottish rail network? At what rate should fares be increased, and how feasible would it be to apply higher increases to Sections of the network which have recently been enhanced?

Q22 comments:Only responded to Q24

23. What should the difference be between peak and off-peak fares? Will this help encourage people to switch to travelling in the off-peak?

Q23 comments:Only responded to Q24

Scottish stations

24. How should we determine what rail stations are required and where, including whether a station should be closed?

Q24 comments: My specific interest in this consultation as a whole is related to the potential closure of local rail stations. In particular section 7.10 makes reference to rail stations which are located in close proximity to one another and it is noted that there are 11 stations within the Glasgow commuter area less than one mile from another station. Duke Street station is one of these stations within the Glasgow area. I do not know if there are specific plans to consider the closure of Duke Street but using it as an example for this question it is the only accessible station within Dennistoun (when considering Bellgrove, Duke Street and Alexandra Parade) which has step-free access. So in determining whether a rail station should be closed I would ask that you ensure that suitable step-free access is available at alternate stations which is convenient for people with disabilities, parents with prams and potentially cyclists (in this case I would suggest the closure of Duke Street would need to be met with step-free access being provided at both Bellgrove and Alexandra Parade stations).

25. What are the merits or issues that arise from a third party (such as a local authority or local business) being able to propose, promote and fund a station or service?

Q25 comments:Only responded to Q24

26. Should only one organisation be responsible for the management and maintenance of stations? If this was the franchisee how should that responsibility be structured in terms of leasing, investment, and issues relating to residual capital value?

Q26 comments:Only responded to Q24

27. How can local communities be encouraged to support their local station?

Q27 comments:Only responded to Q24

28. What categories of station should be designated and what facilities should be available at each category of station?

Q28 comments:Only responded to Q24

Cross-border services

29. Should cross-border services continue to go north of Edinburgh? In operating alongside ScotRail services, how do cross-border services

benefit passengers and taxpayers? And who should specify these services, the Department of Transport or the Scottish Ministers?

Q29 comments:Only responded to Q24

30. Or should the cross-border services terminate at Edinburgh Waverley, allowing opportunities for Scottish connections? And if so, what additional benefits would accrue from having an Edinburgh Hub?

Q30 comments:Only responded to Q24

Rolling stock

31. What alternative strategies or mechanisms could be used to reduce the cost of the provision of rolling stock?

Q31 comments:Only responded to Q24

32. What facilities should be present on a train and to what extent should these facilities vary according to the route served?

Q32 comments:Only responded to Q24

Passengers – information, security and services

33. How should we prioritise investment for mobile phone provision and / or Wi-Fi type high-bandwidth services?

Q33 comments:Only responded to Q24

34. How should we balance the need for additional seating capacity and retain the flexibility of a franchisee to offer first-class services if commercially viable?

Q34 comments:Only responded to Q24

35. What issues and evidence should be considered prior to determining whether or not to ban the consumption of alcohol on trains?

Q35 comments:Only responded to Q24

36. How can the provision of travel information for passengers be further improved?

Q36 comments:Only responded to Q24

Caledonian Sleeper

37. Should we continue to specify sleeper services, or should this be a purely commercial matter for a train operating company?

Q37 comments:Only responded to Q24

38. Should the Caledonian Sleeper services be contracted for separately from the main ScotRail franchise? Or should it be an option for within the main ScotRail franchise?

Q38 comments:Only responded to Q24

39. We would be interested in your views in the level and type of service that the Caledonian Sleeper Services should provide. Including:

- What is the appeal of the Caledonian Sleeper Service, and if there were more early and late trains would the appeal of the sleeper services change?
- What is the value of sleeper services to Fort William, Inverness and Aberdeen and are these the correct destinations, for example would Oban provide better connectivity?
- What facilities should the sleeper services provide and would you pay more for better facilities?

Q39 comments:Only responded to Q24

Environmental issues

40. What environmental key performance indicators should we consider for inclusion in the franchise agreement or the High Level Output Specification?

Q40 comments:Only responded to Q24