

Respondent Information Form and Questions

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Title Mr ☒ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ *Please tick as appropriate*

Surname

Forename

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / Group/Organisation

☒

Please tick as appropriate

☐

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes ☐ No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis
Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☐

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address ☐

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☒

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate ☐ Yes ☐ No

- (d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

☒ Yes

☐ No

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: None.

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

Q2 comments: A least 5 years.

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

Q3 comments: None.

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

Q4 comments: None.

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

Q5 comments: No terms the more involved the more complicated and costly it becomes as every party involved wants their cut and profit.

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

Q6 comments: No comment

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

Q7 comments: No comment

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

Q8 comments: Fine, and removal of franchise for repeated offenders

Achieving reliability, performance and service quality

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

Q9 comments: Fine, and removal of franchise for repeated offenders

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: No Comment

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

Q11 comments: Pretty obvious this one.... Give us what we pay for.

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

Q12 comments: In most cases this should be the same thing.

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: No comment

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

Q14 comments: Third part monitor / audit.

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: None ... we paid for a seat.

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: No comment.

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: **Independent** regulator should decide keep politics out.

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

Q18 comments: No comment

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

Q19 comments: No comment

Scottish rail fares

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

Q20 comments: Inexpensive as possible, whilst remaining within safety envelope.

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: Highland fares should be regulated by Independent regulator should decide keep politics out.

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: How about taking a leaf out of other European rail networks books... a bit more subsidy.

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: making them all competitive.

Scottish stations

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

Q24 comments: Local need. Not profit decision only.

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: No comment.

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: Yes one organisation.

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

Q27 comments: Cheap travel on regular, clean trains where seating is available for all.

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

Q28 comments: No comment... over to you for suggestions.

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: Yes, less changes and seamless end to end journeys.

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:

Rolling stock

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

Q31 comments: You suggest... we will discuss and decide not the other way about.

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

Q32 comments: Free Wi-fi

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: Leading question ... looking for an excuse to charge for what should be included as a

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: No balance required bring all the seating capacity up to a good standard and there would be no need for and have and have-nots culture.

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

Q35 comments: Freedom of choice & views of rail travellers in general. I travel extensively on the rail network and people consuming alcohol on a train have never annoyed me. I would be opposed and annoyed by this reduction in my freedom of choice to consume alcohol if I wished. Do not only take into account the views of staff or BT police ... they are only interested in reducing their work load and in the latter case making us all into offenders.

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

Q36 comments: Text and web updates.

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: Yes, definitely a fantastic service.

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: No, definitely not.

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: A great use of the rail network at quiet periods.

A hotel on wheels.

The current range of destinations should be retained and extended to include Oban.

Stop asking leading questions relating to increasing prices... as if you needed an excuse.

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: No further environmental indicators are required. It is patently obvious the train service is probably the “greenest” of current travel options for ordinary folk.