

Transform Scotland

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1 Summary

1.1 Transform Scotland is content with the proposals set out in the consultation.

1.2 We wish to be consulted at the next, substantive, phase of the development of the ScotRail franchise specification.

2 Comments on the consultation

2.1 We have read through the draft 'Franchising Policy Statement' and are in agreement with the mechanism by which this will be done. It seems to follow closely the requirements of the Railway Act 1993, Section 26 (4A).

2.2 We are happy that the awarding of franchises will take account of matters such as consistency with strategic objectives and affordability and other issues, although we will wish to have some input at the appropriate stage as to the possible content of these strategic objectives.

2.3 We also agree that the Minister should have the flexibility to award franchises without going to tender to facilitate remapping or to meet short-term contingencies.

2.4 We look forward to the next consultation stage, which will deal with the form, type, duration, service specification and other elements. We have views on several of these issues, which we would like to submit at the appropriate time.