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23 August 2012

Richard Price
Chief Executive
Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
London
WC28 4AN

Dear Richard

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF RAIL REGULATION

Revised Guidance from the Scottish Ministers was issued to you on the 10 July. This letter supplements that Guidance by outlining our expectations on engagement between the ORR and Transport Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

We last laid out arrangements for formal engagement in October 2009 and in the period since then it has by and large worked well. However, the publication of the HLOS and moving into the next stage of the periodic review, alongside the issuing of the revised Ministerial Guidance suggests that now is an opportune time to revisit and review those arrangements.

As discussed at the recent high level meeting, our officials have built very positive relationships and speak on regular basis. I would add to this the very welcome appointment of Sue Johnston as the ORR Deputy Director for Scotland. I understand that in recent discussions we have agreed that this allows for a changed approach to our engagement.

My rail colleagues have had a number of discussions about this with Sue and based on those, we would propose the following:

- An annual meeting between the Minister for Housing and Transport and the Chair of the ORR Board. This would be followed closely by a trilateral meeting, at official level, to discuss the outcomes of the ministerial meeting.
- An annual 'trilateral' Chief Executive meeting to include Network Rail's Route Managing Director for Scotland.
- Six monthly trilateral meetings between senior officials (Deputy Director level or above).
- Regular discussions, as required, between Aidan Grisewood, Director for Rail and Sue Johnston, Deputy Director for Scotland.

Given that Network Rail's performance against regulatory targets is one of the key issues for discussion, I would suggest that the formal meeting schedule be built around the publication of your Quarterly Monitor. In this context, the starting point would be the publication of your end year report which would align with the meeting between your Chair and the Minister.

The lead official for these arrangements from our end will be Emma Gilbert (emma.gilbert@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk), who is part of the Rail Performance team. It would be very useful if you could identify a lead contact in your organisation.

Finally, I hope that this letter, along with the Ministerial Guidance, will give us a solid basis on which to continue building our relationship.

Yours Sincerely



DAVID MIDDLETON