

Marylebone Station

Great Central House
Melcombe Place
London NW1 6JJ

Telephone: 020 7333 3265
E-mail: rob.brighthouse@chilternrailways.co.uk

Rob Brighthouse
Managing Director

14 September 2012

Andrew Eyles
Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

Dear Mr Eyles

Formalisation of the Rail Delivery Group

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal for the formalisation of the role and remit of the Rail Delivery Group (RDG). Chiltern Railways supports the work of the RDG and is represented at the meeting via its shareholders Arriva. We support the principles of the McNulty report in aiming to reduce the cost base of the rail industry, and note that government policy will need to change if the full potential of the McNulty report's recommendations are to be delivered.

We are supportive of the proposal to formalise RDG. In particular, Chiltern Railways:

- Agrees with the proposed purpose of RDG
- Agrees that RDG should not gain any special powers or authority or have any statutory role
- Agrees that RDG should be formed as a Company Limited by Guarantee
- Agrees with the proposed approach to membership
- Agrees with the proposals for RDG leadership and supports the proposed measures to ensure that a process is in place for requiring members to depart when their owning groups no longer have a role in the rail industry; and for allowing new entrants to the industry to join
- Agrees that it is not unreasonable for a new licence condition to be created requiring us to be members of and participate in RDG, as the strength of the organisation is only assured if all industry members are compelled to participate: however there should be provision for the licence condition to be revoked if in future RDG's role were not to be widely supported and it was failing to fulfil its purpose
- As to the staffing of RDG, we see that it is important for there to be a full time leader and a small secretariat and are of the view that the term of the Director General should be limited to three years
- It is proposed that funding of RDG be split 50% NR and 50% operators. We see this as sensible but are of the view that it is essential for the charges and budget of the RDG to be reviewed and approved in advance by its members.

I trust this response is helpful. We do not consider that there is a case for any of it to be excluded from your website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Brighthouse', written in a cursive style.

Rob Brighthouse
Managing Director

Copied to:

Graham Smith
Secretary, Rail Delivery Group
4th Floor
King's Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG