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Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
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Dear Paul

Reform of access contractual review arrangements

Eversholt Rail has read the ORR's 25th January 2012 consultation paper on 'Reform of access contractual review arrangements' with interest.

In practice, the paper impacts indirectly on the Rolling Stock Owning Companies ('ROSCOs'), since Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies ('TOCs') are the parties principally affected. However, Eversholt Rail is pleased to offer a view specifically on Question 14 – "Do consultees consider it would be useful for Network Rail to undertake an assessment of depot capacity in order to identify long term needs? Do consultees believe it would be more appropriate to carry this out when requirements for new or additional rolling stock are being identified?"

A number of policy initiatives including Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money Study², the Government's Command Paper³, and the December 2011 Association of Train Operating Companies Report⁴ contemplate the UK Rail Industry (potentially through the Rail Delivery Group or other industry body) would develop and publish an industry-wide rolling stock strategy to achieve a range of better planning outcomes with increased visibility amongst other things within a cost-reduction, rail-value-for-money agenda.

Eversholt Rail submits that UK depot strategy is a natural sub-set of UK rolling stock strategy, rather than being solely an infrastructure-led planning determination in its own right led by Network Rail. We believe that depot strategy should form one of the important outcomes of such a broader rolling stock strategy development in the above context against existing and future rail demand, which would lead to a better analysis and wider support for depot capacity needs so determined.

We would be happy to meet you to discuss our view in more detail if this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mary Kenny
Chief Executive

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² Realising the Potential of GB Rail, May 2011

³ Reforming our Railways: Putting the Customer First, March 2012

⁴ Rolling stock and value for money, December 2011