



OFFICE OF RAIL AND ROAD

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Dear Jo

**ORR guidelines on the Long Term Planning Process (LTPP)**

The Network Licence requires Network Rail to “*establish and maintain long term plans to promote the long term planning objective*” (Condition 1: Network Management, 1.14). Network Rail has performed this activity for a considerable period of time, initially producing a set of Route Utilisation Studies and subsequently various studies under the Long Term Planning Process (LTPP). This letter supersedes any previously provided guidelines in relation to any aspect of the LTPP.

We have reviewed our role in the LTPP in light of reclassification, the findings of the Bowe review, and emerging changes to the enhancements process for CP6. We consider that the determination of what long term plans should be made for the network (and therefore, whether or not a LTPP study is fit for purpose) is a decision best managed between Network Rail (via the long term planning objective under the licence) and funders directly.

We no longer expect to make comments on the proposals in any draft or final documents, nor contribute to individual studies, except where these reflect particular areas of regulatory focus. We will continue to take an overview of the LTPP via appropriate governance arrangements (currently the Rail Industry Planning Group). In relation to the establishment of individual studies, we expect Network Rail to determine itself whether or not to establish each individual study, in consultation with national funders.

We will however continue to manage any situation in which a party is concerned that they have not been treated fairly under the LTPP. We will deal with any concerns about unfair treatment as and when they arise, and Network Rail and any party raising concerns will be expected to put forward a clear summary of their position, with evidence, for ORR to consider. Appendix 1 to this letter sets out the process for any such decision.

We expect Network Rail to continue to run a transparent and collaborative process with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the licence condition on long term planning is met. We do not consider it necessary to make any changes to the Network Licence to reflect these changes.



At some point, it may be appropriate to review and refresh the LTPP in light of the changes in industry structure. We would be happy to contribute to any such review.

I am copying this letter to Stuart White at the Department for Transport and Fiona Hesling at Transport Scotland and also placing it on our website.

Yours sincerely

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

**Graham Richards**

**Director, Railway Planning & Performance**

## **ORR's Long Term Planning Process objection procedure**

1. Following consultation of a draft Long Term Planning Process study<sup>1</sup>, a proposed final version of the LTPP study will be provided by Network Rail directly to ORR<sup>2</sup> and published on Network Rail's website.
2. If it receives no representations from third parties within 30 days of publication of the proposed LTPP study, ORR will not take any action. Network Rail may then, having taken into account the views of funders, establish the study.
3. If any parties consider that they have not been treated fairly or that their views have not been given due consideration during the development of a LTPP study, and that as such the resultant study should not be established in the form proposed by Network Rail, they should:
  - a. Make representations to ORR (copied to Network Rail) within 30 days of Network Rail publishing the proposed LTPP study; and
  - b. Set out a clear summary of their position, with evidence of what engagement they have had in the process, what their concern is and what their proposed solution is, for ORR to consider.
4. Network Rail may provide a response to the ORR setting out its position in response to the third party concerns within 10 days of receipt of the representations.
5. If ORR receives representations from third parties (and, where relevant, from Network Rail), it will consider whether to object to the study within 60 days of it being published.
6. ORR will review the representations and Network Rail's response and consider whether or not to object to the establishment of the study. If ORR objects, it will publish a notice of objection explaining why it has objected.
7. If ORR has given a notice of objection for any proposed LTPP study, Network Rail should, within 60 days (or such other time period as ORR may agree) of receiving such a notice, publish and provide ORR with a revised proposed final LTPP study which addresses the deficiencies which have been identified.

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<sup>1</sup> This process will apply to any document published by Network Rail under the Long Term Planning Process, including Route Studies, Network Studies, or updates to the previous Route Utilisation Studies e.g. on electrification.

<sup>2</sup> The LTPP document should be sent to the [LongTermPlanning@orr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LongTermPlanning@orr.gsi.gov.uk) email address