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8 January 2013

Dear colleague

Opportunity to comment on Network Rail's strategic business plan for control period 5

In June 2013 we will publish our draft conclusions on our 2013 periodic review (PR13). This will set out what Network Rail needs to deliver for control period 5 ("CP5" – 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019), the funding the company will receive and the wider financial and incentive framework.

Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan (SBP), which was published today, is the company's main submission to us for PR13¹. The SBP sets out how Network Rail proposes to deliver the outputs set by the Scottish Ministers and the Secretary of State in their high-level output specifications (HLOSs) published in June and July 2012 respectively², and how much Network Rail considers this would cost.

We are inviting your views on the SBP. We are particularly looking for any comments you have on specific aspects of the plan which affect you. For example, train operators may have views on the specification and costs of enhancement projects in their area. Or you may have views on efficiencies that you think may be available or how outputs could be better delivered. Where possible it would be helpful if you could set out the evidence for your views.

We required Network Rail to engage with its stakeholders (including train operators, passengers and freight customers) during the SBP's development and to explain specifically how it has done this³. We are therefore expecting stakeholders' views to have been reflected in the proposals submitted to us. However, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment on the published SBP to help inform our review and to provide external challenge.

¹ The 2013 periodic review (PR13) determines Network Rail's outputs and funding for CP5. Network Rail's SBP documentation can be accessed at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/publications/strategic-business-plan-for-cp5/>.

² See page <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/pr13/publications/key-publications-by-stakeholders.php>.

³ <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/pr13/PDF/network-rail-2013-sbp-requirements.pdf>.



As this is not a formal ORR consultation (the SBP is not our publication), we are providing a period of six weeks for comments. Please send any comments that you have, **by 19 February 2013**, to sbp.comments@orr.gsi.gov.uk.

Or if you prefer to send by post:

Valentina Licata
Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

Please note that we will publish responses⁴ on our website. If you wish your response, or part of it, to remain confidential, please state this clearly when you respond.

We are also hosting a workshop on 13 February 2013 at our offices in London, at which Network Rail will present its SBP and we will facilitate a discussion. We will publish a note of the key points raised at the session in a non-attributable way.

If you wish to attend the workshop, please email sbp.comments@orr.gsi.gov.uk by 29 January 2013.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Larkinson', is positioned above the printed name.

John Larkinson

⁴ That is, those sent in MS Word format or accessible PDF format created using Adobe Acrobat (with the security method set to 'no security'). Please note that image scans will not be published.