

Philip Willcox
Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
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Monday 05th August 2013

Dear Philip

On-Rail competition: Consultation on options for change in open access

We write in response to your consultation of 14th June 2013 regarding the options for change in open access.

RMT is totally opposed to any increase in open access operations and consequently rejects all of the proposed options.

RMT is concerned that the government's intention to increase these kind of operations will see the systematic drain of public money from the rail network increase as operators choose only to operate services on a commercial basis, with no regard to socially necessary routes.

In the past we have witnessed the withdrawal of open access operations when the ownership of a franchise holding train operating company has changed, such as in the case of the Wrexham and Shropshire Railway.

RMT has noted the registration of open access companies on lines such as the East Coast mainline by operators who are also bidding for the franchise, clearly demonstrating that both the franchising and open access systems are open to abuse.

RMT believes in a publically owned and integrated rail network and we do not believe that any of the proposals within the consultation assist in its development.

We look forward to the ORR's further comments in this matter and would welcome further discussion with the ORR over our proposals for the future of Britain's rail industry.

Yours sincerely



Bob Crow
General Secretary