

John Larkinson

Director, Economic Regulation and Consumers

Telephone 020 7282 2193

E-mail: john.larkinson@orr.gsi.gov.uk



3 March 2016

Dan Moore
Deputy Director, Rail Delivery Strategy
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

by email only

Dear Dan,

ECML Connectivity Fund

Thank you for your letter of 19 February.

We understand your point that the particular use of capacity created by infrastructure works could, on some measures, affect the value for money of those works to Government and that we should consider this point in light of our duties when making access decisions; we have done this before and will do so here.

However, it is unclear how much weight we could reasonably give to this argument in the absence of any information about the assumptions you originally made on the value for money of the fund and/or individual projects, and details of how you would assess the impacts of any decisions we might take on those assumptions. In particular, we are unclear what calculations you have done and propose to do on value for money, how sensitive those calculations are to changed assumptions and how material any effects might be.

Can you therefore provide whatever business case(s) or other appraisals you have for both the connectivity fund as a whole and any specific ECML projects within it, highlighting which elements might depend on our decisions and illustrating the sort of analysis you expect to do once our decisions are made. Please can we have this material by 15 March.

Feel free to contact me or the access & licensing team if you have any queries. As with previous correspondence on this subject, we are copying this letter to ECML applicants and Network Rail, and ideally we will publish this letter and your answers at some stage, subject to appropriate redactions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Larkinson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Larkinson

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