

From: Michael Smethurst
To: Abigail Grenfell, ORR
Sent: Mon 20/06/2011 16:21
Subject: Response to ORR licence consultation

Dear Ms. Grenfell,

Please see below my response to the ORR licence consultation.

From:
Michael Smethurst
Winchester,
Hampshire.

1. Do you agree that there is a lack of clear accountability in the current framework for providing information to passengers?

Yes.

2. Do you agree that licences are the best place to set out aligned accountabilities for providing information?

Yes.

3. Do you agree the split of responsibilities described is sensible?

Yes.

4. Are there any other changes in the way the industry handles information for passengers that would complement new licence obligations and help the industry deliver the needed improvements?

I suggest that the ORR makes it a formal requirement that Network Rail and Operators make passenger timetabling information and real time running information freely available for unlimited re-use by third parties, as a condition of their licenses.

5. Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed licence drafting?

The licence should include a formal requirement for TOCs and Network Rail to release all passenger-facing travel data (time tabling and real time data) under a suitable licence, as above.

6. Who do you think should be covered by these proposals?

All operators of scheduled services over Network Rail tracks.

7. What impact do you think these proposals would have?

Any improvement to the availability of travel data would make it easier for passengers to obtain the information they need in order to plan a journey, and would enable third party suppliers to provide that data in ways which better meet the requirements of the travelling public.

8. What extra information about how these conditions would work in practice would be useful?

The ORR could make a clear "declaration of intent" by announcing that it supports the principles of "open data".

(END)