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The Office of Rail Regulation has launched a consultation on proposals aimed at formalising the Rail Delivery Group, the rail leadership body established in June 2011.

RDG brings together the owners of Britain's train operating companies, freight operating companies and Network Rail. The group was set up in response to the call by Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money Study for the rail industry to provide leadership in reducing the costs and improving the efficiency of the railways.

But the group believes that its voluntary basis may not be sustainable and has decided that it should be formalised by creating a company limited by guarantee. An obligation will be placed



on key industry players to participate in the RDG by the introduction of a licence condition requiring participation in the group.

Tim O'Toole, chairman of the RDG, said: "The government's command paper expects the Rail Delivery Group to take a leadership role within the rail industry in order to drive efficiency and improve value for money for the passenger, freight customer and taxpayer. Formalising the group will reinforce RDG's ability to fulfil this role."

Over the past year the RDG has focused on identifying priorities to help achieve value for money, establishing cross-industry working groups to take forward proposals to deliver improvements for passengers and taxpayers. ORR is seeking views on proposals to introduce new licence conditions - developed with the RDG - which would formalise the group's role, governance arrangements and funding.



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Tim O'Toole: formalising RDG will help it fulfil leadership role called