

TRANSPORT

Briefing

[Front page](#)[News & analysis](#)[Intelligence & resources](#)[Agenda & monitors](#)[Power 200](#)[Subscribe](#)[About](#)[News](#)[Analysis](#)

Rail Delivery Group role to be formalised

Posted 17/10/12

The Rail Delivery Group, which includes senior representatives from train operating companies and Network Rail, has secured the backing of the Office of Rail Regulation and the Secretary of State for Transport to take on a formal role within the railway sector.

Following an ORR consultation, the rail regulator has proposed the incorporation of a new condition into the licences of Network Rail and passenger and freight train operators who use the mainline network to enable each to be a member of the RDG and contribute to its work. According to the ORR, this will help the Rail Delivery Group be able to engage with parties across the whole industry, building on their ideas and expertise to help drive improvements. Licence holders must give their consent to the proposed modification by 13 November 2012 and changes to licences will then be implemented by the end of November.

The Rail Delivery Group was established in June 2011 in response to the recommendations of Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money report, commissioned by government to examine how the cost of Britain's railways could be reduced. But while the RDG has set up a series of working groups examining myriad areas of railway practice, critics argue that it has yet to show that it can effectively address any of the complex issues facing the industry.

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin's decision on 3 October 2012 to cancel the West Coast franchising competition has prompted fresh questions about how a forum largely composed of bosses from rival companies can be expected to develop initiatives of maximum benefit to passengers and taxpayers. According to the minutes of the last RDG meeting on 9 October, attendees called for the franchising process to be restarted as soon as possible and agreed to create a working group to examine franchising issues. The minutes also record the transport secretary's support for formalising the RDG's role.

RELATED ARTICLES

[Rail reform: Network Rail to overhaul governance](#)
[Rail reform: tram line is microfranchise contender](#)
[Rail reform: Greening looks to curb fare increases](#)
[Rail reform: CP promises evolution not revolution](#)
[Rail white paper publication delayed until 2012](#)
[ITA pulls plug on Merseyrail vertical integration](#)
[Rail regulator needs teeth says select committee](#)
[Network Rail to pitch for overseas contracts](#)
[McNulty: route-level rail concessions mooted](#)
[McNulty: Hammond agrees to review off peak fares](#)

[News index](#)[Front page](#)[Front page](#)[News & analysis](#)[Intelligence & resources](#)[Agenda & monitors](#)[Power 200](#)[Subscribe](#)[About](#)

Transport Briefing is published by [Acumen Intelligence Ltd](#). Unless otherwise specified all content © Acumen Intelligence 2012.
We've been writing about transport infrastructure since 2002 - we also produce the [Crossrailnews](#) and [HS2 News](#) websites.
Contact Transport Briefing: email editor@transportbriefing.co.uk Follow us on Twitter [@transportb](#).