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Holt quits National Express rail bid director role

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Elaine Holt has stepped down from her role as bid director at National Express Group after just 10 months in the job.

Holt was recruited from Directly Operated Railways at the end of last year to lead NEG's pre-qualification and bid for the Great Western rail franchise. However, with the group's Great Western bid finished, and the rail franchising now paused as a result of the collapse of the West Coast franchise, she is moving on.

Holt led First Group's successful bid for the Thameslink/Great Northern franchise and was appointed managing director of the new operator, First Capital Connect, in April 2006. She left three years later and joined Directly Operated Railways, the Department for Transport's in-house 'operator of last resort', as chief executive. In this role she also served as chairman of East Coast, which was surrendered to DOR by National Express.

This left NEG with only one rail franchise - the Essex Thameside C2C operation. Holt's appointment was viewed as a statement of intent by group chief executive Dean Finch to regrow the company's rail business (TB 8053).

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