

# TRANSPORT

## Briefing

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

## DfT seeks technical support for rail refranchising

Posted 20/12/12

The Department for Transport is taking steps to beef up external support for its rail franchising programme following the collapse of the InterCity West Coast competition.

A prior information notice for technical adviser support has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union as the DfT attempts to get to grips with the most challenging rail refranchising programme since rail privatisation.

Franchising policy remains in flux as the findings of the Sam Laidlaw West Coast review, published on 6 December, are digested by officials and with publication of the wider Brown review of rail franchising expected before the end of December 2012. Therefore, the DfT admits that the forthcoming invitation to tender for technical adviser support will necessarily be of a very open nature.

However, in anticipation of the completion of both reviews, the DfT wishes to secure a framework for the technical advisory resources to support a range of franchise options over the next five years. It says the precise number, order and duration of these are currently unknown.

Technical advisers will be required to work with DfT staff and other consultants to assist with one or more franchise competitions. The aim is to support the Department in delivering effective, value for money franchises - notwithstanding that the order, timing, type of contract or length of franchise may all be subject to change.

Three franchise competitions were paused followed the West Coast saga - Thameslink, Great Western and Essex Thameside. Competitions for West Coast and East Coast operations are due to get underway shortly.

An OJEU contract notice for the technical adviser framework is due to be issued in mid January 2013. According to the prior information notice, the DfT reserves the right to amend the scope of the franchises or the order in which they are let at any time.

### RELATED ARTICLES

Full term for London Midland despite poor service  
Laidlaw: £9m West Coast expenses before refunds  
Laidlaw: Rutnam overturns DfT staff suspensions  
Laidlaw: Rutnam promises DfT shake-up and rail DG  
Laidlaw: DfT restructure makes mark on West Coast  
Laidlaw: franchise team kept Villiers in the dark  
First ScotRail franchise extended to spring 2015  
Rail devolution waits on Brown despite 70% support  
Franchising hiatus puts cost cutting targets at...  
Holt quits National Express rail bid director role

[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](mailto:editor@transportbriefing.co.uk) Follow us on Twitter [@transportb](#).