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Rail Delivery Group participation now mandatory

Posted 20/02/13

The Rail Delivery Group - the body set up to encourage closer working between train operating companies and Network Rail - became a formal part of Britain's rail decision making structure on Monday.

At its meeting on 18 February the RDG became a company limited by guarantee with its members and directors drawn from the owners of passenger and freight TOCs and Network Rail. First Group chief executive Tim O'Toole has been appointed chairman of the RDG with Network Rail boss David Higgins deputy chairman. Graham Smith, who worked on the McNulty Rail Value for Money study, was appointed director general.

Tim O'Toole said: "The Rail Delivery Group has been a voluntary organisation since its inception but with an increasing expectation that RDG will provide leadership to the industry it is now the right time to put the group on a formal footing.

"Leadership comes from deeds and actions; it is not something that is created by legal structures. However, by making participation in the Rail Delivery Group an obligation we can ensure that the most senior people in the industry are focused on achieving the Group's objectives of setting the policies and strategies for a growing railway."

O'Toole described the RDG as the principal resource for government as it tackles critical issues for the railway such as franchising, capacity provision and improved efficiency.

O'Toole: increasing expectation that RDG will provide leadership to the rail industry

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