

## East Coast Rail line could be privatised



*The East Coast rail line could be privatised. Picture: Ian Ruthertord*

Published on **Tuesday 5 March 2013 09:20**

The state-owned East Coast rail line that runs services between Edinburgh and London could soon be put back into private hands.

It would pave the way for Virgin Group boss Sir Richard Branson to bid to take control of it.

The Department of Transport has indicated it will return the franchise to the private sector as soon as is practically possible.

Since re-nationalisation, the route has been one of the most profitable and has delivered £640 million in premium payments to the government.