

Amanda Harding
Rail Regulatory Policy Advisor
Rail Strategy and Finance Team
Transport Scotland

12 February 2014

Dear Amanda,

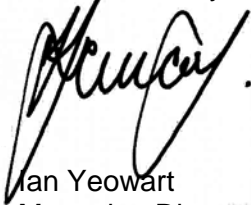
Thank you for your email regarding Alliance Rail Holding's (Alliance) Section 17 proposal.

Alliance welcomes the support from Transport Scotland for our proposals to introduce new services and improve journey times between Edinburgh and both London and Newcastle, developed to secure significant modal shift from air to rail,

Alliance is currently working with Network Rail to confirm the available capacity, and we have shared with a number of stakeholders, including Transport Scotland, some of the output of the significant work undertaken by ALSTOM and Interfleet on the speed profile for the route. We are confident that with delivery of the CP4 enhancements¹ and a timetable recast, capacity is available for the Alliance proposal. The committed CP5 schemes² should deliver capacity over and above that required by the Alliance proposal.

Should we be granted access rights, Alliance would be happy to discuss further with both Transport Scotland and Network Rail the possibility of delivering attractive local connections to our services, providing further benefits to the area.

Yours Sincerely,



Ian Yeoward
Managing Director

¹ CP4 Delivery Plan – Programme 18 – ECML improvements (July 2013) shows as outputs:

- Up to one additional long distance high speed passenger path per hour off peak
- Up to two additional long distance high speed passenger paths in each peak hour

This is delivered via a significant number of scheme outputs.

² The Secretary of State ... *“seeks further improvement in capacity and reduction in journey times”*.