



Elizabeth McLeod
Office of Rail and Road
Tara House
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5 September 2017

Re: ORR Guidance on The Railways Infrastructure (Access Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (draft for consultation)

Dear Elizabeth,

Further to conversations with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), The Consumer Council understands that these regulations were required in order to give powers to the Office of Road and Rail (ORR) which were previously held by DfI. This is necessary in order to comply with EU Directive 2012/34/EU which requires one rail regulator per member state. It is our understanding that this legislation will not impact on rail passengers in Northern Ireland. We would be grateful if ORR could confirm this is the case.

Within the consultation we would be also grateful of confirmation around the term 'Economic Regulation' which is used throughout the consultation. For example, Section 1.5 states that '*ORR has become responsible for the economic regulation of railways in Northern Ireland.*' The Consumer Council understands that the level of rail service provision, the level of public service obligation subsidy for rail and the level of passenger fares will remain solely within the remit of DfI. Again, I would be grateful if you could confirm that this understanding is correct.

Should you wish to discuss this response please contact Scott Kennerley, Head of Transport Policy on 028 9025 1653 or via scott.kennerley@consumercouncil.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Scott Kennerley
Head of Transport Policy