

RECEIVED 13/10/15
To, ORR



Heathrow
Express

The smarter way

8th October 2015

Tracy Phillips
Manager Rail Safety Policy
Office of Rail and Road
One Kemble Street
2nd and 3rd Floors
London
WC2B 4AN

Dear Tracy,

Train Protection System Exemption Application Received By the Office of Rail and Road from Network Rail for Crossrail Services Between Paddington And Heathrow Airport Junction – Heathrow Express Response

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I would first like to register my understanding that the complexities involved here are well understood. The difficulty in achieving full ECTS fitment in the necessary timescales is clear.

Although the proposed solution would duplicate the level of protection currently employed on GWR Turbo fleets, I am concerned (and would like to register that concern) that it is a lowering of safety protection afforded by the ATP system fitted to the class 360 fleet currently operating the service this replaces. However, I do recognise the very thorough work carried out in the assessment.

The second and related area is where MTR Train Drivers who will be operating this new service are very likely to be inexperienced; this makes train protection even more important in my view.

Realistically I accept the need to progress in this way and Heathrow Express has no specific objections to the proposal.

The Compass Centre, Nelson Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2GW
T: +44 (0)20 8750 6600 F: (0)20 8750 6615 W: heathrowexpress.com

Heathrow Express Operating Company Limited, Registered in England and Wales co. no. 3145133
Registered office: The Compass Centre, Nelson Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2GW

What the report does not really address (and I believe it should) is clarity over the continuation of Great Western ATP through the transition to ensure we maximise the protection on the other fleets to mitigate what this proposal suggests.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Fraser Brown
Business Lead
Heathrow Express

The Compass Centre, Nelson Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2GW
T: +44 (0)20 8750 6600 F: (0)20 8750 6615 W: heathrowexpress.com

Heathrow Express Operating Company Limited, Registered in England and Wales co. no. 3145133
Registered office: The Compass Centre, Nelson Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW6 2GW