

John Sears
Passenger Focus

24 April 2014

Dear John,

Thank you for your email addressed to Rachel Gilliland, dated 28th March 2014 regarding Alliance Rail Holdings' (Alliance) Section 17 proposal.

Firstly, we welcome the recognition that GNER's proposal is the only improvement proposed for Leeds and Bradford. Alliance believes that these proposed improvements provide significant benefits for passengers. This would especially be the case for passengers who live on the outskirts of Leeds as a result of the proposed investment in a new station.

It is very positive to hear that Passenger Focus favours competition and the benefits it brings to passengers. There is now empirical evidence¹ to show that, where open access competition exists (e.g. York to London), fares have increased at a much lower rate than at stations where no competition exists. Alliance expects that by introducing competitive services at Leeds and Bradford a similar effect would be achieved.

Alliance notes your comments regarding the potential to route the proposed Cleethorpes and Grimsby services via Lincoln. However, we have had strong support for the service to call at Scunthorpe which could not be achieved routeing via Lincoln. We also note your comments regarding journey time. Working with Network Rail we hope to achieve attractive journey times of all GNER services.

Alliance believes that a timetable recast is required in order to optimise the timetable, and this will be required for all operators to maximise the investment in the infrastructure.

There is no intention that the introduction of GNER services would provide any dis-benefit to any existing group of passenger. Indeed Alliance believes that the introduction of these services could provide nothing but benefits by providing new destinations with direct services to London and providing much needed competition on an existing route.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Yeowart
Managing Director

¹ Rail's Second Chance – Centre for Policy Studies