

Please ask for: Mr J. Morgan

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By post and email

Chandrika Shah
Legislative Development
3rd Floor
Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
London WC2B 4AN

Dear Mr Shah

Managing Level Crossings Consultation - April 2010

With regards to section 2.3, New Level Crossings, p97, the assumption that "ORR does not support the creation of any new level crossings, of any type," does appear to be unduly restrictive and fails to recognize the safety and environmental benefits of encouraging increased capacity to the rail network that could be achieved through railway re-openings. It is important that ORR see the bigger picture of encouraging the continued growth in rail passengers and modal transfer of freight from road to rail.

Many rail reopening proposals are likely to involve new level crossings, however it is important that ORR recognise the safety and environmental benefits of rail over road and distinguish between new crossings and those involving reinstated crossings on former routes where one may have existed for 100+ years.

Unless there is some kind of flexibility, such as recognising 'grand father rights' where a reinstatement scheme involves restoring a level crossing where there was one once before, re-openings are effectively going to be killed, thereby forcing traffic onto a more dangerous mode, i.e. roads.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Morgan
Principal Planning Officer, Planning Policy.