From: Gervase Markham [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 23 February 2013 11:44 AM
To: Trippier, John; Competition
Subject: RTTI Consultation

Dear Mr Trippier,

You can consider this a response to consultation question 4.

If I could make one point, it would be this:

"Easily-accessible real-time information on the progress of trains is part of what customers expect to get for the price of their ticket."

I would argue the rail industry has no _right_ to charge passengers (directly or indirectly, via charging for licenses to the data) to tell them what is happening to trains that they have bought tickets to travel on. How dare they? As a passenger, it makes me most upset.

App and software developers are proxies for the rail customer. They should be given free and unfettered access to this information so they can pass it on to us, the passengers, in whatever form we would most prefer to consume it. And they all should be free to innovate and create new such forms and see how the market likes them. Including forms, such as multi-modal transport apps, which travellers would love but the rail industry would be at best ambivalent about.

A few years ago, I used to have a real-time train information app on my Android phone. One day, it stopped working - because, I eventually found out, the data supply had been cut off. No suitable replacement open source apps were available, so since then I have simply done without. I prefer to run open source apps because I can know what they are doing with the personal data on my phone. (There was one paid proprietary app, I think - presumably the official one.) Restricting the data has had a negative effect on passengers, including me.

Please fix this, and require the RTTI data to be made available under one of the standard "open data" licenses. That means no cost, no restrictions on use, no transfer of liability and no "no criticism" clauses.

None of this response is confidential.

With thanks for your time, and best wishes,

Gervase Markham