

Rail

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Mr Phil Dawson
Regulation & Track Access Manager
Virgin Trains East Coast
East Coast Main Line Company Limited
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Date:
02 July 2015

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 June 2015 regarding Transport Scotland's response to the Virgin Trains East Coast industry consultation, which was carried out in support of your track access application to the Office of Road and Rail.

I can confirm that Transport Scotland wishes to promote and at the same time protect Scottish interests. In terms of the long distance paths, faster journey times and more paths are critical in facilitating our desired shift of cross-border travel to rail and to address demand. However, we are also clear that no service path that is promoted shall operate so as to unbalance the provision of our internal Scottish services, and indeed nor have any significant disruption of efficient timetabling and connections on other services within Scotland. That said, particularly in respect of Reston and East Linton, Transport Scotland is willing to be flexible and work with the DfT, Network Rail, ScotRail and cross border operators in order to achieve the calls at the new stations (and potentially others on the line).

Transport Scotland acknowledges that there are capacity constraints on the East Coast Main Line and recognises that difficult, justifiable choices will need to be made by the Office of Rail and Road to address the interests of all parties.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda McDonald
Rail Regulatory Policy Advisor

cc. David Reed, ORR
Mick Garner, Network Rail

