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18th November 2011

Dear Access Party Representative,

**Re: COMMENTARY ON STRATEGIC CAPACITY STATEMENT FOR TIMETABLE 2013**

Please find attached the Strategic Capacity Statement (SCS) applicable to the 2013 Timetable (Timetable Change Date 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012).

The document should be read in conjunction with the previously published Management of Strategic Capacity on the Network (Network Rail's Code of Practice) for which a link is contained within the SCS itself.

This SCS is the first full version after the inaugural document published in May and significant work has been undertaken within the train planning teams over the intervening months.

It is apparent from this work that the number of available strategic paths is currently limited with many already fully allocated and utilised. But work continues...

There are still some paths previously allocated QJ being validated and as such these have not been included within this Statement.

Full capacity (showing both the strategic paths plus those currently allocated) for any route can be obtained from the respective Operational Planning Project Managers.

It is intended that any current unused paths relinquished by Freight Operators will be reviewed and assessed for potential protection and inclusion in the SCS going forwards.

As always, any industry feedback as to layout, content and requirements would be appreciated so if you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Mark Southon*

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