

**FIRST GROUP RESPONSE TO NETWORK RAIL'S VARIABLE USAGE
CHARGE CONSULTATION**

Good morning Paul and Ben,

I have been asked to let you have the attached which shows a traffic average speed of 68 mph over the range of FGW HST operated services (weighted for frequency of service / route). No service has an average higher than 72mph. This is significantly lower than the national HST figure used in the proposals grid of 80.9 mph which appears to be the result of the default formula rather than a sample assessment.

The timings are taken from FGW's Dec 12 Mondays to Fridays timing database, station dwell is excluded, [3<], and the frequency to generate average is in round figures, but the cap should be sound.

I understand there has been discussion regarding an FGW HST rate and if so should be very grateful if this work were considered please.

Many thanks.

Rob

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Ben,

just a courtesy note to say that, as this consultation was about costs, FirstGroup does not have formally much to say about your proposals but will obviously be interested in the the price per vehicle that comes out of the process.

In particular, the revised data for the cl.185, after the recent reassessment of its curving class, will be closely studied.

Andy Wylie
Planning & Resources Manager, Rail.

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