

Response received via email, 19 December 2012

Dear Ekta

Thank you allowing Northern Rail to comment on the proposals for calculating Fixed Track Access in the next control period.

The proposals do not appear to indicate significant policy change, with the methodology outlined being broadly acceptable to Northern. This, however, relies upon neutrality of the impact on TOC's which is in essence, a governmental/regulatory issue.

Although Northern Rail supports cost/income forecasting being devolved at route level this may reduce the ability to analyse NwR cost and revenues by particular line sections, and this may have implications with future Alliancing work streams, and this will need to be carefully managed by Network Rail.

The proposal to exclude facility charges from the FTAC, and the levy of a supplementary FTAC where appropriate, would appear to be in alignment with the "promoter/beneficiary pays" concept, and would appear sensible.

Kind regards

Helen Cavanagh
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