

Network Rail

Framework Capacity Statement

Consultation update, November 2021

Earlier this year, we invited comments on the format of the Framework Capacity Statement (FCS). We received three responses: one each from a freight operator, a franchised passenger operator and an aspirant open access passenger operator.

After discussion with the respondents and with ORR, we propose to make changes as set out below. In each case, we will work with industry partners over the first half of 2022 to develop an output for publication later in the year.

- A new code of practice (or equivalent) to improve joint working on capacity enquiries from new train operators, applying the principles in our Stakeholder Engagement Code of Practice to this specific area
- A new format of the FCS as a table or map with route sections categorised into bands that provide an initial assessment of the amount and/or type of available capacity, based on informed judgment
- A map-based representation of capacity information, also categorised into bands, but based on real paths in the working timetable and at greater geographical granularity

We will present these documents on our website alongside other information about capacity in a way that makes it easier for new operators to access.

We are grateful to those industry parties that took the trouble to respond to the consultation and engage with us to identify a way forward, at what has been a busy and challenging time for everyone.