

WSMR: Application dated 5/3/07 for a Track Access Contract



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Mr. Sam Gibbins,
Executive – Track Access,
Office of Rail Regulation,
One Kemble Sreet,
London,
WC2B 4AN.

28th March 2007

Dear Mr. Gibbins,

Wrexham, Shrewsbury & Marylebone Railway (WSMR) – Application to Office of Rail Regulation for a Track Access Contract under Section 17 of The Railways Act 1993

Thank you for consulting with Welsh Assembly Government on WSMR's application dated 5th March 2007 for a Track Access Contract for the proposed Wrexham to London train service.

Welsh Assembly Government is fully supportive of WSMR's new application for a Track Access Contract.

The proposed service will provide Wales with 2 positive outcomes:

- Fast journey opportunities between north east Wales and London, especially for the business market.
- Creation of skilled employment at WSMR's operating base in Wrexham.

Welsh Assembly Government intends making a strategic investment in the railway infrastructure at Wrexham for the purpose of improving the capacity and capability of the asset. This will benefit all Train Operators, including WSMR. Welsh Assembly Government's investment at Wrexham is contingent upon the enhanced asset being included in the Regulated Asset Base (please refer to our letter dated 27th November 2006).

I am aware of some capacity constraints on the rail network between Shrewsbury and the Midlands. However, the Assembly Government believes that a solution can be found and should be found. Therefore, I am asking the Office of Railway Regulation to reach a pragmatic solution with the railway industry for the purpose of enabling WSMR to operate its exciting new timetable.

Yours sincerely,

Tim James
Head of Rail - Welsh Assembly Government

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