



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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John Bradley

Our Ref: 67690

Your Ref:

06 March 2103

Dear Mr Bradley,

Thank you for your email of 07 February 2013 regarding the West Coast Mainline Franchise, and line upgrades; I have been asked to respond.

The West Coast Mainline Franchise has had, as I am sure you are aware, some concerns raised, and as a consequence, on 15 October 2012 The Secretary of State for Transport announced to Parliament the cancellation of the InterCity West Coast franchise competition.

On 06 December, the Secretary announced that Virgin Trains will continue to operate services on the West Coast Main Line for up to 23 months. At this time, no decisions have been made in relation to the next Intercity West Coast Franchise specification.

There is a national programme to roll out ETCS across the network, and the West Coast Main Line fits into this. It is currently envisaged that level 2 will be rolled out, but if level 3 is designed, developed and properly tested and implemented, it will be rolled out to the major lines.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Hobbs
Correspondence Manager, Rail Commercial