

## **West London Line Group comments on Network Rail's strategic business plan for CP5**

21 February 2013

Ms Valentina Licata

Office of Rail Regulation

One Kemble Street

London

WC2B 4AN

Dear Ms Licata

### **Opportunity to comment on Network Rail's strategic business plan for CP5**

As promised, I attach the Group's response (please select "View, Normal") to this documentation. This is a 10-page letter that covers our immediate concerns with the Draft and Final Versions of the London & SE RUS in relation to the West London Line, followed by our detailed comments on Network Rail's Industry Strategic Business Plan – England and Wales, including issues apparently not covered therein. We have then commented on Network Rail's plans for the Anglia, Kent, London North Western, Sussex and Western Routes, with a final section covering a small but key area that may be the responsibility of any one or more of four of these Routes' management.

In broad terms, our main concerns are:-

the significant pressures expected on the West London Line (WLL) during CP5 and beyond, plus possible rail projects that would impact on these;

the need for these Business Plans to accommodate development of the appropriate links between Crossrail, HS2 and the established networks at Old Oak Common to achieve the optimal transport solutions from this hub;

the opportunity for, and the benefits to result from, a supplementary link between HS2 and HS1 via the WLL, Clapham Junction, the BML and Tonbridge; and

the need to think radically in terms of double-deck passenger and Continental-size freight rolling stock to meet the future demands of both sectors.

With many thanks for giving us this opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Mark Balaam

Chairman