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Dear colleague

### **The process for considering land disposal by Network Rail**

I am writing to tell you about a small change we are making to the way we deal with proposals by Network Rail to dispose of its land.

From 1 October 2010, whenever Network Rail notifies us of a land disposal proposal it will also notify relevant stakeholders at the same time. This means that stakeholders will be better informed about the progress of Network Rail's proposals.

This change is a result of our review of the land disposal proposals we have received over the last two and a half years. The arrangements today were last changed in April 2008<sup>1</sup> when Network Rail took responsibility for consulting stakeholders about its plans (ORR did this before then). At that time we thought we might at some point move to a "stage 2" arrangement where Network Rail would get "deemed consent" to dispose of land 3 months after it published its proposals. But on reflection we have decided not to move to stage 2. This is because a 3 month wait to get deemed consent for a proposal would slow the approval process down from the position today; we have been able to make some decisions in less than 6 weeks. We think that the current arrangements generally work well and requiring Network Rail to alert stakeholders when a proposal is sent to us for approval is the only change we want to make.

Our policy on land disposal remains unchanged. We will continue to publish the information Network Rail provides on our website, including the stakeholder views that Network Rail received in its background consultation. We will continue to take account of these views when making our decisions. We will also continue to make decisions as promptly as we can and to explain our decision in each case.

We will put a copy of this letter on our website and we will update our published guidance on the land disposal arrangements accordingly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert M Plaskitt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

**Rob Plaskitt**



<sup>1</sup> See [www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/361.pdf](http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/361.pdf)