

5th June 1998

Thames Trains Deal Approved

Franchising Director John O'Brien today confirmed his approval of the change in share ownership of Victory Railways Holdings Ltd, holders of the Thames Trains franchise.

Mr O'Brien announced his conditional approval on 26 March, subject to final agreement on a range of benefits being provided for passengers. This has now been obtained.

The passenger benefits were detailed in OPRAF's Press Notice of 26 March. They include:

- an additional £0.5million to be spent on improving station facilities;
- improved Passenger's Charter compensation;
- a new through service between Oxford and Bristol;
- bus/rail through ticketing;
- a bike/rail integration pilot at Oxford station;
- improved interchange between Hayes & Harlington and Heathrow Airport;
- reinstating the Up platform at South Greenford station;
- an Internet site for Thames Trains .