

20th July 1999

SSRA Executive up and running

Mike Grant, the Franchising Director, has today announced that six key members of a top executive team will lead in the management and development of the Strategic Rail Authority, in its current 'shadow' form and onward.

He also announced that from today OPRAF - the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising - will operate under the title Shadow Strategic Rail Authority (SSRA).

Headed by Chairman Sir Alastair Morton, with Mike Grant as Chief Executive, the executive has five Executive Directors and a principal legal adviser. Three Executive Directors - Chris Stokes (Strategic Development), Nick Newton (Franchise Management) and David Revolta (Finance & Administration) were announced today, along with the appointment of Terence Jenner as The Solicitor. Recruitment for two other Executive Director appointments, for Technical Services and External Relations, has begun.

Notes to Editors

1. The SSRA combines the roles of the British Railways Board (BRB) and OPRAF pending Parliament's approval of the new Railways Bill, which would abolish the position of Director of Passenger Rail Franchising and OPRAF, and establish the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) as its successor body. The 'Shadow ' reference would then also be dropped.
2. Although today's announcement means that OPRAF is now functioning under the 'SSRA ' label, both Mike Grant as Chief Executive and Sir Alastair Morton as Chairman will continue respectively to use powers, and be subject to duties contained in, the Railways Act 1993, the Transport Act 1962, and the British Coal and British Rail (Transfer Proposals) Act 1993 until such time as the SRA legislation is passed.
3. Biographies covering the four appointments announced today (Chris Stokes, Nick Newton and David Revolta have worked for OPRAF, Terence Jenner for the BRB) are available from the SSRA press office.
4. Prior to today's announcements, two other senior SSRA appointments had already recently been made - Julia Clarke (Freight Director) and Agnes Bonnet

(European Rail Relations Manager).

5. The residuary functions of the BRB have been delegated to an Executive Committee chaired by James Jerram, Vice Chairman of the BRB.

6. The 1998/99 edition of the OPRAF Annual Report, covering the financial year to 31 March 1999 was also published today. Press copies are available from the SSRA press office

**For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail Press desk:
020 7944 3108**