

27th March 2000

Modified Final Order against Railtrack

Responding to the Rail Regulator's final enforcement order against Railtrack Mike Grant, Chief Executive of the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority said:

"As we stated in November, the West Coast Main Line is a vital trunk route and as time progresses the need becomes more urgent to address our concerns on the long term capacity of the route. It is important that we are given the confidence that the first stage of the operation will be delivered on time, despite the initial delays in implementing the upgrade, and Railtrack firm up the plans for the critical second stage quickly.

"Since November, Railtrack have also announced a massive increase in the costs. These need to be identified in detail so that we can be satisfied on where those costs should rightly fall.

"We await the detailed response to the Regulator's action, which we fully support."

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