

25th September 2000

SSRA Welcomes Launch of New Hull to London Service

The start of a new direct train service between Hull and London under the rail industry's 'open access' arrangements today has been welcomed by the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority.

Mike Grant, SSRA Chief Executive said:

"The SSRA welcomes the introduction of this innovative addition to the network. Not only will it help increase capacity on the East Coast main line but it will offer more choice and new through journey opportunities for both business and leisure passengers, at no extra cost to taxpayers."

Hull Trains will, initially, provide three fast direct services a day between Hull and London (calling at Brough, Selby, Doncaster and Grantham) on weekdays and one return service on Sundays.

Note to Editors:

1. Hull is currently the largest city in the UK without a frequent direct train service to the capital. The new service fills this 'gap' as well as serving communities in and around Brough, Selby, Doncaster and Grantham.
2. The Hull Trains company, in which the GB Railways Group plc has an 80 per cent holding, was formed in 1998. GB Railways currently owns the Anglia Railways franchise.
3. The new direct service will run alongside the existing service operated by GNER which provides a service linking London Kings Cross with parts of East Anglia and the East Midlands, Yorkshire, Humberside, the North East of England and Scotland.
4. Hull rains' services will be operated using 100mph Class 170/2 diesel trainshired from Anglia Trains.

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