

8th November 2003

SRA Confirms Transfer from Connex to South Eastern Trains

The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) confirmed today that South Eastern Trains will take over train operations from Connex on Sunday, 9 November 2003.

The announcement follows agreement with Connex Transport UK for an early transfer of the business, which both sides have been working towards.

The company, a subsidiary of the SRA, will operate the services throughout Kent, parts of Sussex and South East London until early 2005, when the successful private sector bidder for the Integrated Kent Franchise is expected to take over.

South Eastern Trains today began issuing posters and leaflets informing passengers and confirming that the services operated, the staff who provide them, and the validity of tickets will not change as a result of the transfer.

Notes to Editors

1. Further information about South Eastern Trains (SET), its senior management and its plans, can be found on a press release issued by SET, or by visiting www.setrains.co.uk SET is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the SRA.
2. On 26 June 2003, Connex Transport UK Ltd was placed on notice that its South Eastern rail franchise would terminate no later than 31 December 2003.
3. In October 2003, the SRA published a public consultation on its plans for the Integrated Kent Franchise (IKF). The IKF is planned to include routes on the national rail network currently operated by South Eastern throughout Kent, parts of Sussex and South East London and - subject to satisfactory completion of the transport and funding cases and Secretary of State approval - domestic services on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link when completed in 2007.
4. The SRA announced in September 2003 that it had received 'expressions of interest' in the Integrated Kent Franchise from 13 private sector companies. The SRA will announce later this year details of the 3 - 5 companies that have been selected to receive an 'Invitation to Tender' for the franchise, following the evaluation of Pre-Qualification Documents it has received.

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