



From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

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PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ETRURIA STATION

DECISION UNDER SECTION 43(9) OF THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993 AS AMENDED

On 13 February 2004 the Strategic Rail Authority published a Closure Notice for the termination of the use of Etruria Station near Stoke-on-Trent and the discontinuance of services to and from that station.

66 written objections were received. The Rail Passengers' Committee for the Midlands considered the objections as well as convening a public hearing. They submitted their report to me in November 2004.

Having considered all the evidence put before me, including the SRA's statement of reasons, objections to the closure which were lodged with me, the RPC report and the relevant section of the North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study, I have concluded that on balance consent should be given to the closure. The main reasons for this are

Low of use station

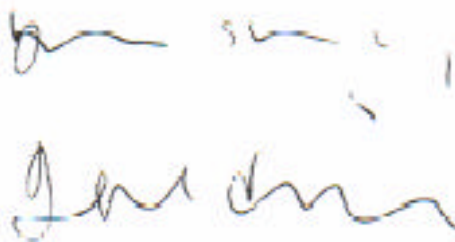
During the period April 2002 to March 2003, before the CT service was substituted by buses, the number of passenger journeys to and from Etruria was about 22 per day. The level of usage is therefore low and I agree with the SRA's view that there is little likelihood of this increasing.

Costs to rebuild station

Closing the station and removing it would allow the tracks to be realigned to increase speeds for through trains and so deliver shorter journey times benefiting passengers, valued at £3m per annum. Removing the station and realignment of the tracks between Etruria and Longport is estimated to cost some £9m. The cost to retain and rebuild the station to allow the same benefits is estimated at £13-14 million. Given the number of passengers using the station this does not represent good value for money.

I have decided not to impose conditions to this consent.

I am obliged by law to require you to publish this decision at the station affected. I am copying this letter to the Office of Rail Regulation, the Strategic Rail Authority, Arriva Trains Northern, RPC Midlands, Staffordshire County Council and Mark Fisher MP, Joan Walley MP and Christopher Paul Farrelly MP.



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