
ACCESS DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of MEETING No. 38

held in London on 9th December 1999

Present:

Bryan Driver, Chairman
Mark Causebrook (Thameslink)
Tony Deighan (Eurostar (U.K.))
David Franks (North Western Trains)
Geoff Knight (Railtrack)
Nigel Oatway (English Welsh & Scottish Railway)
Ian Osborne (Freightliner)

Apologies:

Grahame Cooper (Railtrack)
Mike Price (ScotRail Railways)

In attendance:

Chris Blackman (Secretary)
Martin Shrubsole (Clerk)

38/1 Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Mark Causebrook who was attending his first meeting of the Committee as alternate to Tim Clarke.

38/2 Minutes of meeting No.37

The minutes of meeting no.37 held on 14th July 1999 were approved. The Chairman signed a copy of the minutes as a true record of the proceedings.

38/3 Approval of the Record of the Hearing of Reference [AD]18

The Record of the Hearing of Reference no.18 on 14th July 1999 was approved, subject to one modification. The Chairman signed a copy of the minutes, as modified, as a true record of the proceedings.

It was noted that circulation of the Record is to Committee Members and to those Parties involved at the hearing.

38/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Minute 37/2 [36/3; 35/4]: Budget: Committee Insurance

The Secretary confirmed to members that the Committee was now fully insured. With the agreement of the landlord the doors to rooms 226-230 had now been fitted with more secure locks to meet the requirements of the insurance policy.

38/5 Budget outturn for 1999/2000 and draft budget for 2000/01

The Committee noted that the outturn showed that expenditure was currently well within budget for the current year. Looking forward to the next financial year members expressed the view that there could be a significant increase in disputes handled. The volume of work is partly a function of changes that are made to Access Conditions; in particular the new processes prescribed in Part D were likely to cause a surge in workload for the Timetabling Committee. It was felt that more disputes relating to the Station Access Conditions or the Depot Access Conditions are likely to occur. More disputes arising from Network and Vehicle Change were also predicted, particularly stemming from Railtrack's forecast increased infrastructure development changes, including West Coast Main Line.

The Committee asked for some analysis to be done to indicate the number of days' work incurred by the Chairman, Clerk and Secretary on a 'per dispute' basis.

The Secretary was asked to produce, when preparing the final budget proposal document, accompanying information to demonstrate the sensitivity of the figures to a range of varying assumptions. The Secretary was also asked to investigate the frequency of provision of bank statements, and to check that VAT was correctly raised in the relevant financial transactions.

Subject to these points members agreed the principles incorporated into the Draft Budget proposal. The Committee will review the formal budget proposal at its next quarterly meeting in March 2000.

38/6 Update on References

The Secretary reported that the current position on references to the Committees was:

Ref.no. ADRC

- AD17 an 'improved' reference, if received within the next 4 weeks, would lead to a hearing by the Committee in late January 2000.
- AD19 the parties had indicated they would present papers (concerning the Ramsgate water supply) within the next two weeks.
- AD20 settled by the parties.

Network and Vehicle Change Sub-Committee

- nv5 Connex had stated in writing that they were expecting to submit a formal reference early in the New Year 2000.
- nv6 A joint reference was being prepared by Cardiff Railway Company and Railtrack; expected late December 1999.
- nv7 A joint reference was being prepared by EWS and Railtrack on the subject of closure of sidings at Salisbury; expected late December, although it is likely that the parties may resolve the issues to their mutual satisfaction.

Timetabling Sub-Committee

A number of references had been received in respect of the Rules of the Route/Plan for Winter 2000 Timetable and a number of references were expected on the subject of the Railtrack Offer for the Summer 2000 Timetable.

38/7 Changes to the Access Conditions

The Committee noted the changes to part D had taken effect from 1st December 1999, and that changes to Part G and the Rules, incorporating a recommendation from the Committee, would be the subject of consultation shortly.

It was noted that the Office of the Rail Regulator was shortly to undertake a quinquennial review of the Track Access Conditions. The Committee wished to make a formal response to any consultation document at the appropriate time.

38/8 Meetings for 2000

The Committee agreed the following programme of dates for the 'quarterly' meetings in 2000. Approval of the Budget for 2000/01 will be listed for the agenda of the March meeting and the Accounts for 1999/2000 will be considered at the June meeting. The September meeting will be held only if there are significant items of business that cannot be handled at other meetings called for the purpose of hearing a dispute.

Approved programme of meetings for 2000:

Wednesday 8th March 2000	in Room 230, East Side Offices at Kings Cross
Wednesday 14th June 2000	in Room 230, East Side Offices at Kings Cross
Wednesday 13th September 2000	in Room 230, East Side Offices at Kings Cross
Wednesday 13th December 2000	(venue to be decided)

38/9 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th March 2000 in Room 230, East Side Offices at Kings Cross.