
NETWORK and VEHICLE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No.4
held at Kings Cross on 25th July 2000

Present: Bryan Driver (Chairman)
Stuart Baker
Chris Dickinson
Peter Heubeck
Nick Hortin
Peter Over
Nigel Oatway
Ian Osborne

In attendance: Chris Blackman
Martin Shrubsole

Apologies: Tony Deighan

4/1 Introductions

The Chairman welcomed Nick Hortin as a newly elected Committee member following the retirement of Darren King. He also welcomed Stuart Baker, Chris Dickinson, Peter Heubeck and Ian Osborne who, as alternates, were attending their first meeting of the Committee.

4/2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of meeting no.3 held on 2nd October 1997 were approved. The Chairman signed a copy of the minutes as a true record of the proceedings. A copy of the approved minutes will be circulated to all Industry Parties.

4/3 Record of Hearing of reference no. nv4

The Record of the Hearing of reference nv4 on 2nd October 1997 was approved subject to some minor modifications. The Chairman signed a copy including these agreed modifications as a true account of the proceedings. In accordance with procedures a copy of the Record will be circulated to members of the Committee and to the parties that attended the hearing.

4/4 Hearing of Reference no. nv7

The Committee formally commenced a hearing of reference nv7 consisting of submissions received from North Western Trains and Railtrack.

Members present were unhappy with the disparate views represented by the parties as to the issues of difference between them. It was noted that attempts to produce a joint submission, for the purposes of seeking the Committee's determination, had proved unsuccessful. Nevertheless the Committee was satisfied that, in relation to the issues at stake, and the provisions of Track Access Condition G2.4 and G6, there was a need to bring the dispute formally to the Committee, but it declined, on the basis of the arguments presented, to formulate a determination until the parties had undertaken further discussions.

The Committee therefore exhorted the parties to resume negotiations and discussions with a view to reaching either a full understanding and agreement of all the matters of the current dispute, or to produce and submit a joint statement defining in detail the areas of difference upon which the determination of the Committee is sought.

In the circumstances the Committee decided to issue a formal 'Note of Guidance to the parties'. A copy of this document is attached.

4/5 References pending to the Committee

The Secretary advised Members that the status of other references to the Committee was as follows:-

- nv5 No formal submissions had yet been received on this issue; the Secretary would write to the referrer to explain that, if no papers are submitted within 4 weeks, the reference would be deemed to have lapsed.
- nv6 The Secretary advised the Committee that the Managing Director of Cardiff Railway Co. had explained that a solution had been agreed in principle with Railtrack, and, when amended signalling was introduced in August 2000, he would formally withdraw the reference.

4/6 Date of next meeting

4th September 2000 to hear, if necessary, further submissions relating to reference nv7.