
TIMETABLING SUB-COMMITTEE

Determination No. 24

(Hearing held at Euston House on 28th October 1996)

The Committee was asked by Regional Railways North East to determine whether or not Railtrack London North East Zone should be entitled to extraordinary Possessions, not previously catered for within the agreed Rules of the Route, at

- Lumley Hill (Castleford) on two Sundays between 26 January and March 1997,
- between Thornaby and Newport (Teesside) overnight on Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 March 1997.

Regional Railways North East had advanced arguments for associating the Lumley Bridge Possessions, which would sever services to Castleford, with work to be undertaken on other weekends that also required the severing of the Leeds to Castleford service. The Committee considered that this proposition was reasonable in relation to the Decision Criteria and noted that Railtrack London North East Zone had undertaken to consider it as a factor in its planning, but had proceeded to let contracts on the basis of weekends of Possessions for which they had not got Regional Railways North East's agreement. The Committee noted and endorsed the arguments from Regional Railways North East that the letting of this contract by Railtrack should not weigh as the decisive consideration as to whether the current schedule for these works was the most appropriate; the Committee declared that the footnote to Access Condition D4 was intended to ensure that Decision Criteria D4(d) was not given disproportionate weight as compared with the other Decision Criteria; it should not, however, be construed as implying that D4(d) had a lesser weight than any other individual Decision Criteria.

On the basis of the evidence presented, and acknowledging that its decision might involve Railtrack in some contract amendment costs, the Committee determined that in the circumstances of this instance, Railtrack should be directed not to proceed with the Lumley Hill works on the weekends currently scheduled but should seek to undertake the work at some other period which would minimise the overall impact on rail traffic.

With regard to the request for a rescheduling of the works between Thornaby and Newport (Teesside), in order that they should all coincide with other major works being undertaken at Middlesbrough, the Committee perceived that there appeared to have been inadequate dialogue and co-operation between the parties. The Committee therefore directed the parties to carry out further evaluation and consultation with a view to taking all reasonable measures to minimise the number of interruptions to Regional Railways North East (and other) train services.

Bryan Driver
Chairman of the Committee
28th October 1996