



Department  
for Transport



# United Kingdom-London: Railway transport

# Prior information notice for a public service contract

Form for notification under Article 7(2) of Regulation 1370/2007, as amended by the Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, to be published one year before the launch of the invitation to tender procedure or direct award on the Department's website.

Competent authorities may decide not to publish this information where a public service contract concerns an annual provision of less than 50 000 kilometres of public passenger transport services.

## Section I: Competent authority

### I.1 Name and addresses

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
United Kingdom  
Contact person:  
E-mail: [railprocurement@dft.gov.uk](mailto:railprocurement@dft.gov.uk)  
NUTS code: UKI32 Westminster

Internet address(es):

Main address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>

## **I.2 Contract award on behalf of other competent authorities**

## **I.3 Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

## **I.4 Type of competent authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority, including their regional or local subdivisions

# **Section II: Object**

## **II.1 Scope of the procurement**

### **II.1.1 Title**

Contract for West Coast Partnership Rail Services. Currently operated by First Trenitalia West Coast Rail Limited

### **II.1.2 Main CPV code**

60200000 Railway transport services

### **II.1.3 Type of contract**

Services

Areas covered by the public transport services:  
Rail transport services

## **II.2 Description**

### **II.2.2 Additional CPV code(s)**

60210000 Public transport services by railways

### **II.2.3 Place of performance**

NUTS code: UKI LONDON

NUTS code: UKD NORTH WEST (ENGLAND)

NUTS code: UKG WEST MIDLANDS (ENGLAND)

NUTS code: UKM SCOTLAND

NUTS code: UKL WALES  
NUTS code: UK UNITED KINGDOM  
NUTS code: UKJ SOUTH EAST (ENGLAND)

Main site or place of performance:  
West Coast Partnership rail services link London Euston, the West Midlands, North West England, North Wales and Scotland.

#### **II.2.4 Description of the procurement**

Contract for provision of long distance rail services on the UK conventional mainline rail system. They serve the key cities of London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is envisaged the services would run between:

- (a) London Euston to Lichfield Trent Valley, Crewe, Preston and Glasgow Central;
- (b) Lichfield Trent Valley to Macclesfield and Manchester Piccadilly;
- (c) Crewe to Wilmslow and Manchester Piccadilly;
- (d) Crewe to Chester, Wrexham General and Holyhead;
- (e) Crewe to Liverpool Lime Street;
- (f) Preston to Blackpool North;
- (g) Carlisle to Edinburgh;
- (h) London Euston to Coventry, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury;
- (i) Wolverhampton to Stafford; and
- (j) Birmingham New Street to Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe and Glasgow or Edinburgh.

There is a mixture of leisure, business and commuter travel. These services would be similar to those currently operated on the West Coast Partnership franchise. It is envisaged that the contract would also encompass the provision of rail services on HS2 (initially between Old Oak Common in London and Curzon Street in Birmingham and potentially between London Euston and Crewe), and will also include the performance of services in relation to the planning and preparation of HS2 rail services.

#### **II.2.7 Envisaged start date and the duration of the contract**

Start: 16/10/2022  
Duration in months: 120

## **Section IV**

### **Procedure**

#### **IV.1 Type of procedure**

Direct awards for railway transport (article 5(6) of Regulation 1370/2007)

## **Section VI: Complementary information**

### **V1.1 Additional information**

This notice is published in order to update (and to rectify) the previous prior information notice related to the West Coast Partnership Direct Award, which was published on the contracting authority's website on 31 March 2021. That previous notice had envisaged that the start date of the Direct Award would be 1 April 2022.

The start date of the Direct Award is now envisaged to be 16 October 2022.

The envisaged duration of the Direct Award remains as described in the previous notice: up to 10 years in total, which may be made up of a core term and one or more optional periods with the option(s) exercisable by the Secretary of State for Transport.

It is currently anticipated that the grant of any Direct Award as envisaged in this notice will follow on from the expiry of the franchise agreement entered into by the Secretary of State and First Trenitalia West Coast Rail Limited on 28 August 2019 (the "Franchise Agreement"), as varied by the Emergency Recovery Measures Agreement ("ERMA") entered into by the parties on 19 September 2020.

The expiry date of the ERMA, which was entered into in compliance with Article 5(5) of Regulation 1370/2007, and of the underlying Franchise Agreement, is being extended from 1 April 2022 to 16 October 2022 by exercise of the Secretary of State's contractual right to extend.

The contracting authority reserves the right not to proceed with the Direct Award as envisaged or to use an alternative method to procure an operator for the contract.

### **V1.4 Date of dispatch of this notice**

20 August 2021