

ESSEX THAMESIDE, GREATER WESTERN, AND THAMESLINK FRANCHISES
 APPLICANTS' CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS: BULLETIN 4

Franchise(s)	Document reference/page no	Topic	Clarification Question	DFT reference	Clarification Question Response
GW	PQQ		The PQQ requires that "Potential Providers will be required to provide a parent company guarantee in support of their obligations under full repairing leases of all the stations they operate under this franchise". It is understood from a response to a prior CQ that this should apply to all stations except possibly those transferring to Crossrail. Could you please confirm the nature, functional scope and duration of this PCG so that all responses can be evaluated on a comparable basis.	PQ2012-075	We would expect the parent company guarantee for station stewardship obligations to take a similar form to that proposed for the Inter City West Coast franchise. Information on this is included in the "Invitation To Tender main document" and "Guidance on station stewardship" document published on the Department's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/rail-passenger-franchise-intercity-west-coast No decision has been made on the timing or nature of the leasing arrangements for the stations to be transferred Crossrail.
TL			Does the Authority expect to have fully specified the service requirement for Thameslink services through the core and other services by the time the ITT is issued? How much flexibility will bidders have to determine/modify the Thameslink service specification at the bid stage?	PQ2012-102	We anticipate outlining the proposed service we intend to specify when we consult on the franchise towards the middle of this year. It is our intention that this specification will probably allow for some flexibility around stopping patterns, whilst retaining the same or similar quantum of services that operate today. Further discussion are likely with short-listed bidders.
ET			Please advise whether or not applicants are required to replace the blue text in brackets in Schedule 1 of the non-incumbent FLPA for the Essex Thameside Franchise PQQ. If so, please provide the information required to complete clause 12 and clause 13 of Schedule 1.	PQ2012-108	For paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 the details are: the franchise agreement made on 8 May 1996 between Director of Passenger Rail Franchising (1) and National Express Group (2). For paragraph 13 the existing franchisee is c2c Rail Limited.
TL			Please advise whether or not applicants are required to replace the blue text in brackets in Schedule 1 of the non-incumbent FLPA for the Thameslink Franchise PQQ. If so, please provide the information required to complete clause 12 and clause 13 of Schedule 1.	PQ2012-109	For paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 the details are: the franchise agreement made on 12 December 2005 between The Secretary of State for Transport (1) and First Capital Connect Limited (2). For paragraph 13 the existing franchisee is First GNTL Limited.
GW	PQQ part H		The second part of the fifth objective for the Great Western franchise asks us to "Consider possible devolution of some specification or management of services in keeping with the recommendations of the McNulty Report." Please clarify whether this objective is referring to devolution in the widest sense i.e transfer of specification of services to Local Authorities or does it refer to Network Rail's devolution of power from the centre to the Regions.	PQ2012-112	We are referring to devolution in its widest sense, not Network Rail.

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TL	Thameslink Part H, second franchise objective		Given that the specific examples cited in relation to change management are covered under other objectives, what, beyond the change management organisation itself, would you like to see covered under this objective, bearing in mind that this is a double-weighted question?	PQ2012-113	It is entirely a matter for bidders to determine what they do or do not put in such a response. However, we anticipate that quality answers would focus not just on the organisation but how the processes, procedure and culture of an organisation would enable effective change to be brought about.
All three	PQQ		In the "Insurance" paragraph, Section I – Part D (pg. 10), - do you need a copy of the insurance policy/certificate or is it just a straight answer "yes" or "no" required.	PQ2012-116	It is sufficient to state Yes or No.
ET&TL	Part H; PQQ	Regarding response PQ2012-087	Can DfT confirm that no marks are available for demonstrating understanding and potential approaches for maximising revenue on the franchise?	PQ2012-118	As stated in PQ087, revenue maximisation per se is not a specific franchise objective, but this would not preclude potential providers referencing this area (and receiving marks) if they believe (and can successfully demonstrate) it contributes to achieving one or more of the franchise objectives that are set out.
TL		Southern Services	Does the agreement that has been reached between Southern and the Government clarify the termination date of the franchise in view of the Southern services being incorporated in the Thameslink franchise?	PQ2012-119	Please see the Department's press release of 28 December 2011: http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20111228
ET				PQ2012-120	DfT statement: Please note that the Performance Bond for the Essex Thameside franchise is expected to be up to £16 million and not £6 million as previously advised in the OJEU notice and Pre-qualification questionnaire.