

ESSEX THAMESIDE, GREATER WESTERN, AND THAMESLINK FRANCHISES  
 APPLICANTS' CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS: BULLETIN 2

Franchise(s)	Document reference/page no	Topic	Clarification Question	DFT reference	Clarification Question Response
GW	OJEU notice Prequalification Questionnaire	Bonds	With regard to the documents issued today could you please clarify the amounts of the Performance Bond and the Season Ticket Bond. Within the OJEU notice these are reported as £50m and £25m respectively. However within the Prequalification Questionnaire they are reported as £6m and £20m respectively.	PQ2012-001	The correct Performance Bond and Season Ticket Bond values for the Great Western franchise are up to £50 million and up to £25 million respectively, as stated in the OJEU Notice.
GW	Great Western PQQ Part H page 24.		With regard to the documents issued today could you please clarify the parties referred to in the franchise objectives for the Franchise set out in Part H (page 24): "...consider improving alignment and better collaboration between Network Rail and <i>other relevant industry partners</i> " (italics added).	PQ2012-002	Better collaboration which drives a more efficient railway does not have to just be about working closer with Network Rail. Other operators and parties such as ROSCOs could be another source for bidders to be considering when looking at how the industry could deliver a more efficient and cost-effective operation.
GW	OJEU pg 4 Section III.1.1		Can the DfT please define what is meant by "suitably accredited third parties or banks"	PQ2012-017	A suitably accredited third party or bank which complies with:  a) A grade A- or higher by Standard & Poor's Rating Services or Fitch Ratings Ltd or b) An A3 or higher by Moody's Investor Services or a comparable rating from an internationally recognised credit rating agency c) A rating accompanied with a 'stable' outlook.
TL		Southeastern services	Will any LSER stations transfer to the new franchise when the Southeastern services are included?	PQ2012-042	For the purposes of PQQ, Bidders should assume that stations between Blackfriars and Sevenoaks (excluding Bromley South and Sevenoaks) via Catford transfer to the Thameslink franchise.
TL		Finance	Can you confirm that the Performance Bond is £75 million?	PQ2012-043	This is correct.
ET		Timetable	Is it intended that any services should continue to run to London Liverpool Street?	PQ2012-045	It is likely to be for bidders to decide whether or not to operate any services into London Liverpool Street. Current arrangements enable drivers to maintain route knowledge, enabling diversion into Liverpool Street to minimise disruption during track maintenance on the approach to Fenchurch Street. Bidders will be strongly encouraged to maintain this capability.
GW		Finance	Section III.1.1 of the OJEU states that the franchise operator will be required to provide a parent company guarantee in respect of the obligation to maintain stations. Can you advise us what value you are expecting us to guarantee?	PQ2012-048	We anticipate the parent company guarantee will cover unfulfilled asset stewardship obligations under the station licence and to be limited by the extent of those unfulfilled obligations rather than limited to a specific amount.
GW	PQQ		Part D - what is the likely value / cap on the parent company guarantee in support of the full repairing leases on stations?	PQ2012-072	Please see response to PQ2012-048
TL	PQQ		Part D - what is the likely value / cap on the parent company guarantee in support of the full repairing leases on stations?	PQ2012-073	Please see response to PQ2012-048
ET	PQQ		Part D - what is the likely value / cap on the parent company guarantee in support of the full repairing leases on stations?	PQ2012-074	Please see response to PQ2012-048

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GW	PQQ		The PQQ states the second objective as being "[to] Provide appropriate capacity for passenger services which delivers value for money for the taxpayer within defined infrastructure and rolling stock constraints on the Great Western network". Could you please clarify what the "defined infrastructure and rolling stock constraints on the Great Western network" so that all responses can be evaluated on a comparable basis.	PQ2012-076	Definition of the rolling stock and infrastructure available to the new franchisee is dependent on a number of factors factors including the IEP programme, route upgrade and electrification works, and CP5 HLOS schemes, and has yet to be finalised. Greater clarification will be provided by ITT stage.
GW	Part H	PQQ	The GW questionnaire continues 'within defined infrastructure and rolling stock constraints'; please can you provide detail of these constraints particularly if they relate to already planned rolling stock cascades.	PQ2012-080	See PQ2012-076 ("Definition of the rolling stock and infrastructure available to the new franchisee is dependent on a number of factors factors including the IEP programme, route upgrade and electrification works, and CP5 HLOS schemes, and has yet to be finalised. Greater clarification will be provided by ITT stage.")
GW	Part H	PQQ	The GW questionnaire asks we 'Consider possible devolution of some specification or management of services in keeping with the recommendations of the McNulty Report.' Please can you clarify the meaning of devolution in this context?	PQ2012-082	The McNulty Report (P. 11) identifies this as 'a greater degree of local decision making by PTEs, and/or local authorities, brought more closely together with budget responsibility and accountability.
GW	Part H	PQQ	The GW questionnaire asks bidders to 'Effectively manage franchise changes by working collaboratively with the Authority and other industry partners to ensure that the Great Western upgrade, Crossrail project works and future transfer of services to the Crossrail operator, and the IEP procurement programmes are successfully delivered and the benefits envisaged are fully realised'. Please can you provide documentation showing the detail of the benefits that the Department envisages being delivered?	PQ2012-083	This is contained within the IEP, electrification and Crossrail business cases. These will be available in the data room as soon as practically possible.
TL	Part H	PQQ	The TL questionnaire asks bidders to 'take a leading role in enabling the successful delivery of the Thameslink programme, and will work collaboratively with the Authority and other industry partners to ensure that the envisaged programme benefits are fully realised on time.' Please can you provide documentation showing the detail of the benefits that the Department envisages being delivered and when they are expected to be realised?	PQ2012-084	The Thameslink Programme website will provide prospective bidders with enough information to complete the PQQ.
GW	Part H	PQQ	Please can you clarify the performance objectives for GW .	PQ2012-085A	The Department consider that this objective is sufficiently clear; if there any specific aspect of performance or this objective then a separate question should be raised.
TL	Part H	PQQ	Please can you clarify the performance objectives for TL	PQ2012-085B	The Department consider that this objective is sufficiently clear; if there any specific aspect of performance or this objective then a separate question should be raised.

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All three	Parts G and H	PQQ	Please can you clarify the font (type and size) acceptable for tables.	PQ2012-086	Please see question PQ2012-086 (Q: The PQQ states the font size of Arial 11pt for all responses. Historically the DfT has accepted a smaller font size (9pt) for text in tables. Please can the DfT confirm that this is still the case. A:Yes - as long as these tables are genuinely needed to provide information in a tabular format.)
TL	Part H	PQQ	Please can you make available the detailed programme for the Thameslink works	PQ2012-088	The Thameslink programme website provides enough detail for prospective bidders to complete the PQQ
TL	General	PQQ	Please can you confirm when the Thameslink Programme Board meets and include an NX representative as an invitee to future meetings.	PQ2012-089	It is planned to invite short-listed bidders to such meeting as an observers.
GW	Part H	PQQ	Please can you provide information relating to the IEP commissioning and testing plan.	PQ2012-090	This will be made available in the data room as soon as practically possible.
All three	PQQ Part G	PQQ	We note the size limit in relation to Part G (as clarified) 'Potential Providers should limit their submission for Part G to a maximum of 25 printed A4 pages...unless they operate more than one franchise (in the UK and/or overseas) in which case the limit can be increased by 2 pages for each additional franchise'.  We also note the requirement for the Part G submission to cover all existing UK passenger rail franchise operations and the Potential Provider choice whether or not to provide evidence from passenger rail franchise operations outside the UK. We note that once an operation is used as evidence, it should be consistently used for each of the questions.  Do the 2 additional pages for each overseas franchise apply in respect of operations for which the Potential Provider chooses not to submit evidence in Part G?	PQ2012-093	No, they do not apply.
GW	PQQ		Can the DfT please confirm if a glossary is used, is this included as part of the page count.	PQ2012-094	No, it is not included.
GW	PQQ		The additional information provided by the DfT on GW is very helpful. Can the DfT please provide further clarification on how the platforming at Paddington is proposed.	PQ2012-095	The combined IEP/Crossrail timetable will be included in the data room as soon as practically possible.
ET	PQQ		Can the DfT please confirm if a glossary is used, is this included as part of the page count.	PQ2012-096	No, it is not included.
TL	PQQ		Can the DfT please confirm if a glossary is used, is this included as part of the page count.	PQ2012-097	No, it is not included.
GW	PQQ Annex 1		In annex1 it is stated that 210 stations are managed by the franchisee. It is our understanding that 208 stations are managed by the franchisee since the transferral of Islip and Bicester Town stations to the Chiltern franchise. Would you please confirm the number and identities of stations that are currently managed by the franchisee.	PQ2012-098	Full details of all 208 FGW stations at the present time are included as Appendix 2 of the Great Western Consultation Document available at <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations">www.dft.gov.uk/consultations</a>

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GW	OJEU II.2.1		Would please confirm that the entry "3.4 million passenger miles" is incorrect	PQ2012-103	The entry should read "3.4 thousand million passenger miles".
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