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United Kingdom Regulators' Network (UKRN) consultation

I am writing on behalf of Network Rail in response to the UKRN consultation issued on 6 October 2014.

Network Rail recognises the importance of confident and competent independent regulators and the potential benefits of cross-industry collaboration and sharing best practice, where appropriate. However, it also notes that regulators do not share a common set of statutory duties and there will always be inherent differences between regulated industries which will need to be reflected in the respective regulatory regimes. Therefore, a 'one size fits all' approach is unlikely to ever be appropriate and individual regulators will need to consider carefully the extent to which (if at all) they take into account the output of UKRN projects when making decisions.

Network Rail strongly considers that co-operation through UKRN should not be incorporated into regulators' statutory duties or specified in guidance by Government. Network Rail believes that collaboration through UKRN should be voluntary and managed by industry regulators, rather than specified or mandated by Government. Network Rail considers that this is particularly important given UKRN has only recently been established and thus not yet had adequate opportunity to demonstrate that it can be a success without further guidance from Government.

Network Rail does not considers any part of this response to be confidential.

Yours sincerely

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