

## **Undertakings from National Express group accepted in follow-up to MMC report**

Nigel Griffiths, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, today announced that he had accepted undertakings from National Express Group Plc (NEG) in respect of their acquisition of Midland Main Line Limited. This is in accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading.

The undertakings follow the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) concerning the acquisition. They are to remedy or prevent the adverse effects identified by the MMC in that report and are in line with those sought by Ian Lang, the then Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, in his decision on the report which was published on 18 December 1996.

NEG have undertaken:

- not to increase fares above the increase in the Retail Price Index;
- not to reduce the levels of service, in respect of coach services between central London and Sheffield, Chesterfield, Derby, Nottingham and Leicester;
- to provide a quality of service at least equal to the standards on other parts of the National Express Ltd network; and
- to provide the Director General of Fair Trading (DGFT) with such information as he might require to ascertain that the undertakings are being carried out.

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