



Department
for Transport



United Kingdom-London: Railway transport

WITHDRAWN JANUARY 2026

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
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 Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern rail services. Currently operated by Govia Thameslink Railway 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: UK, UKH EAST OF ENGLAND, UKI LONDON, UKJ South East

Main site or place of performance:

Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern rail services link London, South East England and the East of England. They serve the key cities of London, Brighton, Peterborough and Cambridge.

II.2.4 Description of the procurement

Contract for provision of commuter and regional rail services on the UK conventional mainline rail system. It is envisaged the services would run between:

- (a) Moorgate to Stevenage via Hertford
- (b) Moorgate to Welwyn Garden City
- (c) Kings Lynn / Cambridge to London Kings Cross
- (d) Peterborough to London Kings Cross
- (e) Cambridge / Peterborough / Bedford to St Pancras and the Thameslink Core
- (f) Rainham / Sevenoaks / Orpington / East Grinstead / Brighton / Littlehampton / Horsham / Sutton to London Blackfriars and the Thameslink Core
- (g) London Victoria to Brighton including Gatwick Express branded services
- (h) London Victoria to Littlehampton
- (i) London Victoria to Eastbourne and Ore
- (j) London Victoria to Southampton / Portsmouth / Bognor Regis
- (k) Brighton to Lewes / Seaford / Eastbourne
- (l) Eastbourne to Ore / Ashford International
- (m) Brighton to Southampton / Portsmouth / Bognor Regis / Littlehampton
- (n) Littlehampton to Bognor Regis / Portsmouth
- (o) London Victoria to East Grinstead
- (p) London Bridge to Uckfield
- (q) London Victoria to Reigate
- (r) Redhill to Tonbridge
- (s) East Croydon to Milton Keynes via Kensington Olympia
- (t) London Bridge to Caterham and Tattenham Corner
- (u) London Bridge to Epsom
- (v) London Bridge to Beckenham Junction via Peckham Rye
- (w) London Bridge to Victoria via Gipsy Hill
- (x) London Victoria to Epsom, Dorking and Horsham
- (y) London Victoria to Epsom Downs via Carshalton Beeches
- (z) London Victoria to West Croydon via Gipsy Hill

There is a mixture of leisure, business and commuter travel. These services would be similar to those currently operated on the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern Franchise.

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

Start: 01/04/2022

Duration in months: 72

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

The PIN published in the OJEU (document number: 534168-2020) on 2 November 2020 had envisaged that the contract start date would be 19 September 2021. This PIN is being issued as the contract start date is now envisaged to be 1 April 2022.

It is anticipated that the contract will have a duration in the region of two to six years in total and this is likely to include a core period of at least two years with an optional additional period or periods exercisable at the sole discretion of the Contract Authority.

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

17 June 2021