Department for Transport

Rail Franchise Schedule

P PQQ Passport Application Date (Deadline for non-passport holders)
E Issue of Franchise EOI
I ITT (Invitation to Tender) Issued to Shortlisted Bidders
A Contract Award
S End of current Franchise Agreement Start of new Franchise Agreement

Current Franchise
Direct Award - Contract signed
Direct Award - Planned
New Franchise
Key Deliverable process link

2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

West Midlands◆
A Aug — S Dec — Additional 1 - 2 reporting periods at SoS discretion
P Jun — E Sep — I Feb — A Dec — S Apr 26 — Additional 1–26 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Wales & Borders*
S Oct — Additional 1 - 7 reporting periods at SoS discretion

South Eastern
E Feb — I Sep — A Aug — S Dec — Extension of 6 reporting periods to Dec 18 assumed. A further 1 additional reporting period is available at SoS discretion

West Coast Partnership
S Apr — P Apr — I Nov — A Nov — S Apr — Additional 1 - 13 reporting periods at SoS discretion

East Midlands
S Mar — I Apr — A Apr — S Aug — Additional 1 - 13 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Cross Country
P Dec — E Mar — I Oct — A Aug — S Dec — Extension of 2 reporting periods to Dec 19 assumed. A further 11 additional reporting periods are available at SoS discretion

Great Western
P Jun — E Sep — I Feb — A Dec — S Apr — Extension of 13 reporting periods to Apr 20 assumed

Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern
P Nov — E Feb — I Jul — A May — S Sep — Additional 1 - 26 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Chiltern
P Feb — E May — I Oct — A Aug — S Dec — Additional 1 - 7 reporting periods at SoS discretion

InterCity East Coast
P May — E Aug — I Jan — A Nov — S Mar — Additional 1 - 13 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Trans-Pennine Express
P Jun — E Sep — I Feb — A Dec — S Apr — Additional 1 - 26 reporting periods at SoS discretion

South Western
A Apr — S Aug
P Oct — E Jan — I Jun — A Apr — S Aug — Additional 1 -11 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Northern
P Jun — E Sep — I Feb — A Dec — S Apr — Additional 1–13 reporting periods at SoS discretion

East Anglia
P Dec — E Mar — I Aug — A Jun — S Oct — Additional 1–13 reporting periods at SoS discretion

Essex Thameside
S Nov 29 — Additional 1–7 reporting periods at SoS discretion

General Election Purdah Period

◆ The grey milestones indicates the potential future competition timescales based on the published ITT contract lengths.
✶ The UK Government has agreed in principle to transfer franchising powers to the Welsh Government who are leading and undertaking the procurement of the next Wales and Borders Franchise.

THIS RAIL FRANCHISE SCHEDULE REFLECTS THE INFORMATION IN THE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM NOTICE (QSN). SEE THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (OJEU) FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH TO RAIL FRANCHISING, PLEASE REFER TO THE RAIL FRANCHISING PAGES OF THE GOV.UK WEBSITE (www.gov.uk/government/collections/rail-franchising).

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