

## **PE1509/A**

Network Rail Letter of 29 May 2014

### **Response to Public Petitions Committee 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

#### **Aberdeen – Inverness Improvements**

##### **Background**

The Aberdeen – Inverness line is 109 miles long and has 8 intermediate stations – at Dyce, Inverurie, Inch, Huntly, Keith, Elgin, Forres and Nairn.

The line is single track over its entire length apart from loops at / near all of the stations and a 5 mile double track section between Inch and Kennethmont.

Current end to end services are approximately two hourly, with all stations served by all trains. Around 12 local trains each way operate between Inverurie (or Dyce) and Aberdeen.

##### **Aberdeen – Inverness Phase 1**

Agreement has been reached with Transport Scotland on the scope of the project.

This scope is:

- Infrastructure to provide a new single platform station at Dalcross
- New station at Forres on straight alignment – this will require a relocation of existing station
- Extend existing Forres loop westwards to include new station location on the straight alignment
- Modernisation of signalling arrangements at Forres
- Signalling enhancements at Elgin to provide bi-directional stopping on Platform 2 plus signalled access to / from the goods siding
- Reinstatement of double track between Inverurie and Aberdeen (subject to feasibility through tunnels between Kittybrewster and Aberdeen station)
- Infrastructure to provide a new station at Kintore
- Line speed improvements between Inverurie and Aberdeen to mitigate journey time increase caused by Kintore station
- Platform extensions at Elgin and Inch to accommodate six car trains

The £170 million scheme of works will be completed over the next five years, during our Control Period 5 (2014 – 2019).

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