

Overview of rail industry companies

Train Operating Companies

Train Operating Companies (TOCs) run rail passenger services, leasing and managing stations from Network Rail. TOCs generally tender for franchises to run specific routes from the **Department for Transport**.

Rolling stock companies

Rolling stock companies (ROSCOs) own the actual trains that run on the rails. It is their job to work with the train operating and freight companies to determine the sorts of engines, carriage and trucks required to deliver the desired customer services. ROSCOs also have a responsibility to help develop services by phasing out old and aged rolling stock to make way for modern, more convenient and safer trains. ROSCOs either lease stock to train operating or the train building companies.

Network Rail

Network Rail is the owner, operator and infrastructure manager of Britain's main railway network and provides the Train Operating Companies with access to the network. It runs, maintains and develops the core physical infrastructure of the network and has to ensure efficient management of the assets over the short, medium and long-term. While managing the existing fabric of the network, and ensuring its safe use, its role is also to support and implement new initiatives and upgrades, overseeing investment committed to the development of the railways.

Network Rail is responsible for:

- Operating the network;
- Managing performance;
- Directing service recovery;
- Setting timetables;
- Allocating capacity;
- Leading industry planning; and
- Maintaining, renewing and developing the network.

Network Rail is a company limited by guarantee, and was established in March 2002. It is a private company with a board of directors, but does not have shareholders. Its members are drawn from the rail industry and the public. It is funded through a mixture of access revenue, paid to it by the train operating companies, and money from the government grants.

Network Rail operates under a license issued by the Secretary of State for Transport which is administered and enforced by the **Office of Rail Regulation**. The ORR is responsible for ensuring that Network Rail operates and plans the future use and development of the network and maintains and enhances its assets in such a way that meets the reasonable requirements of its customers and funders.