

The Crossrail Referee

The Crossrail Scheme

Crossrail is a proposed new rail route running from Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west through a tunnel under Central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. Its main objectives are to relieve congestion and the shortage of capacity on the existing network, to support London's role as a leading financial and commercial centre, and to help kick-start regeneration and renewal in several key geographical areas.

Cross London Rail Links Limited (CLRL), the company set up to develop the route and secure powers for the line to be built, is a joint venture between the Department for Transport and Transport for London. Following consultation rounds in 2003 and 2004, the route is now being promoted by means of the Crossrail Hybrid Bill. This was presented to Parliament in February 2005 with the Second Reading taking place in July 2005. The Select Committee stage began in 2006.

The Crossrail Referee

CLRL has publicly stated its commitment to consultation during the promotion of its powers and implementation of the scheme. In accordance with a recommendation in the Government's Code of Practice on the Dissemination of Information during Major Infrastructure Developments, it has appointed an independent referee to adjudicate on issues arising from the dissemination of information about the development of the scheme.

The Crossrail Referee is Professor Tony Kennerley. As the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Complaints Commissioner, Professor Kennerley has already established a sound reputation for independence and fairness and has hands-on experience of major transport infrastructure projects and what concerns people affected by them.

He is also an arbitrator for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (commonly known as ACAS). He is supported by Tony Gregory, who as Assistant Channel Tunnel Rail Link Complaints Commissioner brings similar qualities and experience to his new role.

How the Referee can help you

If you consider that you have not received information provided for by the Code of Practice on the Dissemination of Information during Major Infrastructure Developments, and you cannot resolve your difference with CLRL by agreement, you may ask the Referee to adjudicate.

You will have the opportunity to put your case to the Referee in writing and he may ask for further clarification or representations before making his decision. He will have access to any relevant records or documentation held by CLRL except any which are considered to be commercially confidential or otherwise protected by section 3.5 of the Code of Practice.

The Referee will adjudicate on the written representations unless, at his absolute discretion, he wishes to meet the parties. He will reach a decision within 28 days of referral, unless a longer period is agreed, and will send a report of his findings to both parties.

What the Referee cannot do

He cannot consider requests for information relating to blight arising from the operation of directions issued by the Secretary of State for Transport to safeguard the alignment of the Crossrail route.

He cannot become involved in disputes between CLRL and statutory authorities regarding consents for undertaking works.

He cannot become involved in disputes between CLRL and train operating companies, Network Rail and London Underground Limited (including its suppliers).

He cannot arbitrate on disputes that remain unresolved despite his attempts to mediate; this function remains with Parliament, a public inquiry, or the courts as appropriate.

He cannot provide technical or legal support to complainants in their dealings with CLRL.

NOTE: Copies of the Code of Practice on the Dissemination of Information during Major Infrastructure Developments can be downloaded from the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister Website at <http://www.planning.odpm.gov.uk>

If you have an enquiry or complaint relating to the dissemination of information about the development of Crossrail:

Call the Helpdesk Number: **0845 602 3813**

Write to:
Crossrail Helpdesk
FREEPOST NAT6945
London
SW1H 0BR

Fax: 020 7126 1703

e-mail: helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk

The information you require may be available on the Crossrail website at <http://www.crossrail.co.uk>

If you need to refer your request for information to the Referee:

Write to:

Professor Tony Kennerley
The Crossrail Referee
83 Victoria Street
Victoria
London
SW1 0HW

Fax: 020 3008 8566

e-mail: info@crossrailreferee.org

To seek advice about referring your case, call Professor Kennerley's office on **0845 230 9723**

