

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just to try and help here are some of the facts about line side passes. Despite training all out line side pass holders to obtain a PTS accreditation we still have difficulties with 'unsafe practices' and trespass especially during galas. This has been a concern to senior managers and board members of the Railway for some time. As a result the WSR plc has decided to issue a notice which states it is the Company's intention to cease the use of Line Side Passes from December 31 2017. However the Company is holding a dialogue with the Heritage Railway Association on this matter. Further I will raise this matter with the Heritage Safety Officers Group in May.

In the mean time we have issued the notice that existing pass holders can renew to the end of the year and unlike other railways we have not opted to withdraw the passes for Flying Scotsman's visits and replace it with a single charge as we saw this as inappropriate action against out pass holders.

Can I also say that some of our staff, who are extremely busy with Flying Scotsman visits, have received phone calls that are rude, abusive and threatening. This behaviour is a extremely sad and it will only harden the board's resolve to stop the issue of line side passes. The Head of Commercial Services has been given to authority to withdraw the existing pass from anyone who makes this sort of phone call.

Somebody mentioned earlier in an email about Line Side passes for Network Rail. I believe some do exist but, correctly, holders are escorted to their locations and are charged the full cost for that which is likely to run deeply into the hundreds of pounds per visit.

No amount of badgering the staff of the WSR will help. The Company will seek advice from the channels already mentioned but, at this moment in time, the intention, mainly on the grounds of safety (note not Health and Safety but Railway Safety) it is the intention to cease allowing people, without an escort, access to the railway line side.

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31 March 2017