

Press Release:
Jamieson Announces New Chief Executive for Travel Information Service (26 June 2002)

David Jamieson, Transport Minister, today announced the appointment of Nick Illsley as the new Chief Executive for Transport Direct, the UK's first national travel information service.

Currently being developed, Transport Direct is an Internet based one-stop-shop service for the public, providing a range of information on all forms of transport and travel.

Speaking at an international travel information seminar today in London, Jamieson said:

"We want to make it easier for the public to be able to make informed decisions about their travel options before they set out on a journey. Transport Direct will allow them to compare different transport options, find out how services are actually running and buy tickets.

"Transport Direct provides a vital service to the travelling public and I am delighted to announce Nick Illsley's appointment as Chief Executive. He will play a vital role in taking the project forward to its fruition.

"There is much to be done over the next few years to achieve our ambition to transform travel information for the public and Nick will be a major player in ensuring that the service is delivered."

Nick Illsley said:

"I am very pleased to be joining the Transport Direct team. I look forward to working with the Government to bring this project to its next exciting stage. I believe I have the right experience required to deliver the vision for Transport Direct."

With over three years' experience as Chief Executive for the National Rail Enquiry Service, Nick has spent his entire career working for the rail industry and brings a range of skills and experience to his new position at the Department for Transport.

Plans for Transport Direct were first announced in the Government's 10-Year Transport Plan in July 2000. When completed, it will provide comprehensive information on all aspects of public travel, such as bus and rail travel times, road journeys, maps and different journey options.

Notes to editors:

Nick Illsley has been Chief Executive of the National Rail Enquiry Service for the last three years. He has spent his entire career in the rail industry, first with British Rail and more recently with Thames Trains and its parent company the Go-Ahead Group.

The appointment is for three years.

Plans for the site were first announced in July 2000 as part of the Government's 10-year transport plan.

Targets for 2003, as set out in the 10-year plan, are:

- real-time (that is, actual rather than recorded or time-tabled) train operating information;
- real-time information on many local bus services;

- multi-modal travel information on the Internet, covering road journeys as well as all public transport modes at a single point of contact;
- booking of long-distance multi-modal journeys on the Internet;
- development of Internet-based maps, which allow travellers to examine public transport options both for visiting a specific venue and for general travel around an area they are considering visiting.