



## Policy Statement on franchising and dealing with Franchise Bidders

RSSB is a Member owned and governed organisation and under the terms of its Constitution and Business Plan is available to support members in the development and fulfilment of their objectives.

As reported through its board and other communications, RSSB is undertaking activities directly in support of the Department for Transport's franchising team in the areas of Innovation and Sustainable Development. RSSB has agreed to participate in the DfT Bid Evaluation process solely in the area of Sustainability.

Subject to having separate internal systems of work in place and the personnel involved in the bid evaluation will not become involved with members or prospective members in relation to Sustainable Development other than if the evaluation process requires it.

For all other RSSB activities, including supporting the industry with innovation, the RSSB teams are and continue to be available to work with members and other bidders to advise and support them on matters that RSSB supports the industry on. These discussions could involve matters that particular bidders wish to hold confidentially, and RSSB is prepared to have confidential discussions with all competing bidders. RSSB would not however be able to enter into exclusive agreements with any bidders as the general principle is that what RSSB generates or learns is available for all of the industry.

If there is any doubt as to what RSSB can and cannot do, please contact Kalpini Dave, Head of Procurement at [Kalpini.Dave@rssb.co.uk](mailto:Kalpini.Dave@rssb.co.uk).