

ORR closes signalling market study due to COVID-19

April 8, 2020



The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) says it has closed the market study into the UK signalling market.

In a statement released by ORR said: “In January 2020, the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) opened a formal study into the **UK signalling market** in order to explore whether there were any competition issues affecting these important supply chains, and to determine if any action was needed as a result.

“Given the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, we have now taken the decision to close the market study. This will allow industry to focus on operational and safety issues during these challenging times. We were making sound progress and had reached a critical point in gathering information from industry, having identified a number of issues warranting further close investigation. We therefore considered that carrying on would place too great a burden on critical personnel, and we would have been unable to reach a fair and accurate decision by the legal deadline of 26 July 2020.

“The signalling market remains a key focus for ORR, and re-opening the study when the railway returns to a ‘steady-state’ will be a high priority. In the meantime, we will continue our work in this area without placing burden on industry. We will also continue to deploy our resource and expertise to play our part in

ensuring the continued, safe operation of the railway, which is critical to maintaining supply lines of goods and the transport of key workers.

“A final report, setting out full reasons for why we have had to close the study at this stage will be published in due course.”