

ALL CHANGE!

By MARTYN SHARPE

TRAIN driver Eric Newton got the green light yesterday to go to work dressed as a woman.

And British Rail have granted his request to be known in future as Ms Shirley Sinclair.

His wages are being paid in that name and his clocking-on card has been adjusted.

Shirley made the change from being Mr Newton by turning up for work at Rotherham, Yorks, in headscarf and make-up.

And yesterday a British Rail spokesman said: "He now works as Shirley Sinclair and is paid as such.

"As long as he carries out his duties and wears all or part of his uniform we have no objection.

"There is no sex discrimination on British Rail. We have a number of women train drivers."

At first, British Rail officials at divisional headquarters in York believed Shirley had undergone a sex change operation.

Shocked

But the spokesman added: "That information proved to be inaccurate."

At his home in Sheffield, yesterday, Shirley refused to comment.

One of his workmates said: "It was a surprise to us at first. We used to call him Cloggie Newton because he came to work in clogs.

"But we call him Shirley now. What he does is his own affair."

Neighbour Mrs Elizabeth Boulding, aged 66, said: "He has told us that he has changed his name legally and we have been asked to call him Shirley in future."

"I was shocked when I saw him going out in women's clothing, but it doesn't bother me — we get on very well."

Please call me
Shirley, driver
Eric tells his
railway bosses