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21 April 2022

Louisa Allen
Head of Regulatory Compliance & Reporting
Network Rail
The Quadrant: MK
Elder Gate
Milton Keynes
MK9 1EN

Dear Louisa,

Network Rail's network statement, 2023

I am writing to conclude ORR's review of Network Rail's latest network statement, as required of us under *The Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016* (as amended) (hereafter, "the 2016 Regulations").

Your published 2023 network statement continues, overall, to increase in transparency and clarity. It was also good to see your update in January 2022, where you added back the declaration for congested infrastructure for the Reading to Gatwick route, after we queried its removal. Additionally, and helpfully, you have mentioned the future likelihood of the declaration being removed due to new services being introduced.

However, we note that, in general, information on congested infrastructure, and capacity study and enhancement plans needs to be updated - for example, on the Castlefield Corridor. We are aware that revisions to the network statement text also require translation into a second EU language and we have discussed with you your aim that updates to changeable content are both timely and economic. As a result, we note that your intention for the 2024 provisional version is to publish text that has web links to "live" detail that will be kept up to date, as appropriate, in line with Regulation 26 of the 2016 Regulations.

In our reviews over the last couple of years, we have commented that service providers in general need to provide more information about their facilities. To that end, we encourage Network Rail to continue to engage with those stakeholders and promote RailNetEurope's service facilities portal.


We note that Network Rail's website gives a deadline by which service facility providers must give their information to you, but the deadline specified is outdated, relating to 2020. This will need to be updated for future publications in order to comply with Article 5 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)

[2017/2177](#)¹ (as amended). You might also add the next steps Network Rail would take to endeavour to obtain this information, should it not be forthcoming. We will look out for this in next year's network statement.

We will publish this letter on our website at <https://www.orr.gov.uk/guidance-compliance/rail/network-statements>.

We appreciate your continued cooperation and our thanks go Emma Trestrail, who coordinated this edition and helped with our queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Les Waters'.

Les Waters

¹ This Regulation has been retained under UK law.