

Jonathan Rodgers
Senior Executive
Telephone: 0207 282 3775
E-mail: jonathan.rodgers@orr.gov.uk



8 December 2022

Rebecca Mordey
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddledock
London
EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
Govia Thameslink Railway Ltd
1st & 2nd Floor, Monument Place
24 Monument Place
London
EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren

Approval of the 48th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Govia Thameslink Railway Limited (GTR) dated 2 March 2016

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 6 December 2022 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to make a number of changes to GTR's existing rights for the September timetable. They include additional calls on some lines, curtailment of current services and an extension of current rights on the East Coast Mainline, in line with Network Rail's policy for that part of the network. The access rights will be effective from the date of ORR's approval (8 December 2022).

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation from 13 September to 13 October 2022. No concerns or objections were raised.



ORR review

ORR has reviewed this application. We had some operational queries and noted some drafting errors. These were resolved.

Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; in particular, those relating to protecting the interests of users of railway services (section 4(1)(a)), promoting the use of the railway network for the carriage of passengers (section 4(1)(b)) and enabling persons providing railway services to plan their businesses with a reasonable degree of assurance (section 4(1)(g)).

Conformed copy of the track access agreement

Under clause 18.2.4 of the track access contract, Network Rail is required to produce a conformed copy, within 28 days of any amendment being made, and send copies to ORR and the Train Operator. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

Public register and administration

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rodgers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Rodgers