

Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive



27 April 2023

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 Floor, 24 Monument Place
London
EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren

Approval of the 52nd supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Govia Thameslink Railway Limited dated 2 March 2016

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 26 April 2023 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 grant Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) Limited the rights necessary to operate its proposed May 2023 timetable. This entails: the updating of timing loads from 313 to 317; the extension of Brighton-Hasting services to Ore; reinstatement of Brighton-Eastbourne half-hourly services; and changes to the Horsham services to match demand and better align with engineering access. The rights are to commence on the Subsidiary Change Date 2023 and will expire on the Expiry Date or earlier termination of GTR's track access contract.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. No comments or queries were received.



ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some minor drafting issues and these were resolved when the agreement was formally submitted.

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 'Louise Beilby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Louise Beilby