

Patrice Mothersille
Executive, Access & Licensing



24 April 2023

Mark Garner
Customer Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Floor 4B, George Stephenson House
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York
YO1 6JT

Chris Brandon
Head of Business Development and
Programmes
Grand Central Railway Company Ltd
3rd Floor, Northern House
Rougier Street, York
YO1 6HZ

Dear Mark and Chris

Approval of the 19th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Grand Central Railway Company Limited dated 1 August 2014

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 19 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

This supplemental will allow Grand Central Railway Company Limited (Grand Central) to extend the expiry date of its existing Contingent Rights from Subsidiary Change Date (SCD) 2023 to SCD 2024 for one return service from Sunderland to London King's Cross, operating 7 days per week. This is in accordance with Network Rail's East Coast Main Line policy.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. The following consultees responded to the consultation: Transport Focus, Cross Country, Northern Trains, and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. No issues or concerns were raised.



ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational or economic concerns. There were some drafting issues. The application form P was submitted without the formal declaration being signed and the supplemental agreement contained an out of date Network Rail registered office address. These matters were corrected in the formal submission.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrice Mothersille'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

pp

Patrice Mothersille