

**Ellie Mitchell**  
Access Executive



27 April 2023

Mark Garner  
Customer Manager  
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited  
George Stephenson House  
York  
YO1 6HP

Louise Mendham  
Production Director  
Hull Trains Company Limited  
4th Floor, Europa House  
184 Ferensway  
Hull  
HU1 3UT

Dear Mark and Louise,

**Approval of the twenty-fifth supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Hull Trains Company Limited**

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**

This agreement extends the duration of existing contingent rights for Saturday and Sunday services between London Kings Cross and Hull from the Subsidiary Change Date in May 2023 to the Subsidiary Change Date in May 2024. These rights are time-limited in line with Network Rail's East Coast Main Line rights policy, which is only to sell additional rights on that route on a time-limited and contingent basis. In line with the policy, the rights are now being extended to expire in May 2024.

**Industry consultation**

Network Rail undertook an industry consultation in February 2023. CrossCountry supported the application; Northern Trains Limited, Great Western Railway, Transport Focus and West Yorkshire Combined Authority confirmed they had no objections.



## **ORR review**

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified a minor drafting issue and this was 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 that reads 'Ellie Mitchell'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Ellie Mitchell**