

**David Reed**  
Senior Executive, Access & Licensing  
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17 August 2023

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

Darren Gay  
Track Access Contract Manager  
Govia Thameslink Railway Limited  
1st Floor  
24 Monument Place  
London  
EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren,

**Approval of the 54th 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 17 August 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**

Govia Thameslink Railway Limited (GTR) extended weekday and Saturday services between Bedford and Gatwick to Three Bridges in December 2022. These extensions are covered under contingent rights which are due to expire on 21 August 2023. The purpose of this agreement is to provide firm rights to cover the extended portion of these services, between Gatwick and Three Bridges, in both directions.

**Industry consultation**

Network Rail carried out the standard industry consultation in June and July 2023. No issues were raised by any consultees.

**ORR review**

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns.

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## **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 'David Reed', written in a cursive style.

**David Reed**