



Emyl Lewicki  
Track Access Manager  
Office of Rail and Road

Gianmaria Cutrupi  
Aspirant Open Access Operators  
Manager  
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited  
By email only

01 December 2023

Dear Emyl,

**Application for directions: proposed track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Grand Union Trains Limited**

This letter provides the representations of Network Rail regarding the Section 17 application for directions for a proposed track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (we) and Grand Union Trains Limited (Grand Union). Grand Union aspire to run four trains per day in each direction between London Euston and Stirling from SCD 2025 to SCD 2035 in this application.

We previously worked in collaboration with Grand Union when they submitted their first Section 17 application to run services between London Euston and Stirling, which was submitted in 2019. We provided our representations for the previous version of this application in our letters of 27 May 2022, 28 November 2022 and 06 January 2023. The previous application was withdrawn by Grand Union on 01 September 2023.

Currently, we are not in a position to support this new application. Grand Union are now proposing to use Class 22x rolling stock, which is a different rolling stock class from what Grand Union stated in their previous applications.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, this new specified equipment represents a change to the information we based our assessments on. We would like to revisit our timetable assessments to understand the potential impact of the proposed access rights.

As a result of this rolling stock change, the rights previously sought by Grand Union may present capacity issues in the December 2023 timetable with potential flexing of rights required. We are refreshing our timetable work to confirm the level of flexing that may be required and whether access rights can be accommodated. The rights in Grand Union's previous application were also produced using a pre-Carstairs modernisation geography, so we would like to consider the revised infrastructure and

---

<sup>1</sup> Class 91 with 7 Mark 4 coaches and a DVT trailer; Class 93 with 9 Mark 4 coaches and a DVT trailer.



access rights of other operators in this area.

We will complete our work, provide you with a full response and confirm our final position, inclusive of any additional considerations, by 26 January 2024. We will continue keeping Grand Union aware of any conclusions reached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any information you require in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

**Gianmaria Cutrupi**  
Aspirant Open Access Operators Manager  
Network Rail