

Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive



3 June 2024

Ewelina Brandao
Customer Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
2nd Floor, St Patricks House
17 Penarth Road
Cardiff
CF10 5ZA

Chris Dellard
Head of Access Planning
Transport for Wales Rail Ltd
1st Floor, St Patricks House
17 Penarth Road
Cardiff
CF10 5ZA

Dear Ewelina and Chris

Approval of the 24th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Transport for Wales Rail Limited (TfW) dated 7 February 2020.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 3 June 2024 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 amend the Track Access Contract to include an additional Saturday service between Cardiff Central and Newport; and a number of additional rights between Cardiff Central, Cardiff East Boundary and Penarth. TfW is also surrendering some unused access rights on this same route.

These amendments are effective from the date of ORR approval and will expire on the expiry date or earlier termination of TfW's track access contract.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. No concerns were raised.



ORR review

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

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

Louise Beilby