

James Farnell-Smith  
Head of Heavy Rail  
Nexus  
Nexus House  
St James' Boulevard  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4AX

12 February 2014

Dear James,


Thank you for your email addressed to Rachel Gilliland, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 regarding Alliance Rail Holding's (Alliance) Section 17 proposal.

Alliance welcomes the support from Nexus for our proposals to introduce new services and improve journey times between Tyne & Wear and both Edinburgh and London.

Your concerns regarding capacity on the East Coast Mainline are noted. However, Alliance is currently working with Network Rail to confirm the available capacity. We are confident that with delivery of the CP4 enhancements<sup>1</sup> and a timetable recast, capacity is available for the Alliance proposal. The committed CP5 schemes<sup>2</sup> should deliver capacity over and above that required by the Alliance proposal.

Should we be granted access rights, Alliance would be happy to discuss further with both Nexus and Network Rail the possibility of delivering attractive local connections to our services, providing further benefits to the area.

Yours Sincerely,



Ian Yeoward  
Managing Director

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<sup>1</sup> CP4 Delivery Plan – Programme 18 – ECML improvements (July 2013) shows as outputs:

- Up to one additional long distance high speed passenger path per hour off peak
- Up to two additional long distance high speed passenger paths in each peak hour

This is delivered via a significant number of scheme outputs.

<sup>2</sup> The Secretary of State ... *“seeks further improvement in capacity and reduction in journey times”*.