

**Dawson, Phil**

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**From:** Jason Bird  
**Sent:** 07 April 2015 16:59  
**To:** Dawson, Phil; 'Garner Mark'  
**Cc:** 'David.Reed' 'Williams, Ian'; Lindsay Durham; Chris Wilson  
**Subject:** RE: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Phil,

In the absence of a time extension being approved before the deadline, we have a few initial comments to make and will comment in greater detail once we have had time to fully analyse the proposal.

It would appear that it is not possible to accommodate all the proposed rights and a reasonable level of provision for freight until such point (at least) that all of the ECML connectivity projects have been completed (those mentioned in the application and also a Stevenage turnback facility fully independent of the Down Slow line). While these improvements allow for significant separation between long-distance services and freight south of Doncaster, there is still significant interaction - particularly between Holme/Conington and Fletton, and also over Welwyn Viaduct (where freight capacity will continue to be needed). The potential situation north of Doncaster is rather more difficult to assess.

Regardless of the overall quantum, timetable design will be of particular importance as it may well prove that it will only be possible to accommodate all suggested rights in one particular fashion. It will be necessary to ensure that passenger services are flighted to make best use of scarce capacity, and from what we have seen to date this is not the case here.

While reference is made to Network Rail's 2020 Capacity Report, this was more of a high-level look at quantum rather than dealing with the intricacies of putting an operational timetable together for the benefit of the whole industry. Indeed the report has its deficiencies, not least in the quantum of freight assumed and the options deduced.

Regards

Jason

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**From:** Jason Bird  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2015 4:07 PM  
**To:** 'Dawson, Phil'; Garner Mark  
**Cc:** 'David.Reed' Williams, Ian  
**Subject:** RE: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Gents,

We'd be grateful of more time to respond, given the size and complexity of this application.

Regards

Jason

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**From:** Dawson, Phil  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:22 PM  
**To:**



Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC), new track access contract (TAC) from December 2016 to December 2025 - industry consultation

Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) has submitted to the ORR an application under Section 17 of the Railways Act 1993 for approval of a new Track Access Contract from the Principle Change Date in 2016 to the Principle Change Date in December 2025. This replaces the previous Section 17 application made by East Coast on 28 April 2014 which is being formally withdrawn. This is in line with the process for consideration of access rights on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) as set out in the letters of 18 June 2014 and 6 February 2015 from Rob Plaskitt at ORR.

Please note that the company name of the train operator is still East Coast Main Line Company Limited, trading as Virgin Trains East Coast ("VTEC"). East Coast Main Line Company Limited is now owned by Inter City Railways Limited.

In line with the Industry Code of practice for industry consultations, VTEC has requested Network Rail to conduct this consultation on its behalf.

A copy of the proposed Track Access Contract and Application Form are attached and will shortly be available at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=Track%20Access&root=>

A marked up version of the current Schedule 5 tables with the proposed amendments highlighted has not been possible as the service groups have been restructured. Instead a detailed explanation of how Schedule 5 has been put together is provided in the Application Form.

If you wish to respond to the proposed application, please do so in writing by close of play on Tuesday 7 April 2015 (the day after Easter Monday) to: Phil.Dawson and mark.garner

Please copy any responses to: David.Reed

Contact details for Phil:

Phil Dawson  
External desk phone:  
Mobile phone:  
Email:  
Regulation & Track Access Manager,  
East Coast House, 25 Skeldergate, York, YO1 6DH

Cheers,  
Mark

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External desk phone:  
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mark.garner  
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