

The Thameslink logo consists of a dark blue trapezoidal shape pointing downwards, with a pink triangle pointing upwards from its bottom center.The Great Northern logo consists of a dark blue trapezoidal shape pointing downwards, with a light blue triangle pointing upwards from its bottom center.

Mark Garner
Customer Manager, Network Operations
Network Rail
Floor 4B,
George Stephenson House
Toft Green
York
Y01 6JT

14TH April 2015

Dear Mark,

SECTION 17 APPLICATION FROM VIRGIN TRAINS EAST COAST (VTEC) – GOVIA THAMESLINK RAILWAY (GTR) REPRESENTATIONS

Thank you for giving GTR the opportunity to make representations concerning Virgin Trains East Coast's (VTEC) planned Section 17 application.

GTR's only area of desired clarification centres on the compatibility of the proposals with our Train Service Requirement obligations to the DfT. We were pleased to note both your confirmation in 3.1 (Executive summary) that the proposal assumes the full level of the Thameslink, Southern & Great Northern (TSGN) of 24 TPH across London in December 2018, with 8 of those services operated through the new Canal tunnels to Great Northern – and in 4.2 (Adequacy) that East Coast believes that sufficient capacity exists for their proposal.

It is the Thameslink, Southern & Great Northern franchise Train Service Requirements to which GTR is committed to deliver under the terms of our franchise as the key taxpayer benefit from the Thameslink Programme investment. To be certain there are no unintended conflicts, it is this that we need VTEC to confirm is compatible with their proposal and plans – they can be found via this link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381933/tsgn-service-level-commitments.pdf

To be reassured, we would ask that VTEC share the capacity and performance modelling for the southern portion of the ECML along with the notional timetabling for their proposed services with GTR.

Assuming these requests are met, GTR is comfortable with VTEC's proposals.

Thameslink

Great Northern

Yours sincerely



John Beer
Head of Access Contracts
Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR)

Thameslink

Great Northern

Internal:

External:

Mobile:

www.greatnorthernrail.com

www.thameslinkrailway.com

CC Phil Dawson, Virgin Trains East Coast

David Reed, ORR