



Lanita Masi
East Midlands Trains

Network Rail
6th Floor
One Eversholt St
London
NW1 2DN

22nd May 2015

Dear Lanita,

Section 18 Application: Great North Western Railway (GNWR)

Thank you for your response to Jonathan Cooper dated 22nd April 2015 to the consultation on GNWR's proposed Section 18 track access application.

In assessing previous applications on the WCML, Network Rail was requested by the ORR to indicate capacity at a high level rather than developing a specific timetable, the reason for this is to free up capacity as part of a timetable recast and take full advantage of greater flexibility in contracts in order to optimise the timetable. That said there have also been several detailed timetabling studies that have identified paths out of Euston at between xx33, xx38 and xx57. The rationale adopted by Network Rail is that following completion of enhancement schemes (such as Norton Bridge which allows 2 additional long distance high speed services to operate between London and the North West) capacity will be released and the WCML timetable will need to be optimised by a way of a recast which is planned for December 2016.

We note your helpful comments regarding platform usage and your proposed solution.. Should GNWR be awarded rights Network Rail will work to ensure the optimum timetable is achieved for all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Gilliland

Head of Commercial Freight