

From: Jonathan Cooper
Sent: 13 May 2015 11:43
To: 'richardsouthgate@tfl.gov.uk'
Cc: 'AndrewLee@tfl.gov.uk'; 'rachel.gilliland@networkrail.co.uk'
Subject: GNWR Blackpool services and Queens Park

Dear Richard,

Great North Western Railway (Trading as Grand Central) – Section 18 consultation

Thank you for our conversation today and for yours and Andrew Lees comments raised by email on the 24th April to Rachel Gilliland of Network Rail.

As I explained on the telephone, it is very difficult for us to definitively commit to trains calling at Queens Park at this stage in the process. Consequently it is too early for meaningful discussions about staff and station requirements should we call there.

However, if we were to call at this station we would require staff accommodation for a small team to provide a GNWR presence including access to toilets etc. We also recognise that the station will require some investment particularly in relation to step free access and waiting facilities. This is taken into account in our business plan.

In terms of timescales, we intend to make an application to the ORR the week commencing the 18th May for the access rights we have consulted on. We would then have a period of assessment of the application by the ORR, which we would hope would be able to provide a decision ideally by the end of September 2015. Once we have a decision on access rights we will begin mobilisation of the services which should commence from the December 2017 timetable.

We aim to have clarity on whether we are able to use Euston by mid-2016. At this stage we are confident that we will get access into London Euston. If we need to use Queens Park then we would have from mid-2016 to develop and implement a plan for our services at Queens Park. We recognise that we need to work closely with you on this issue should we be approved.

From our conversation today, I took away the need to keep you up to date with our application. I will do this either by email or by phone.


It was good to talk to you today. If there is anything you need to know please contact me – my details are at the bottom of this email.

Best wishes

Jonathan Cooper

Head of Contracts



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