

**Michael Albon**  
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5 December 2017

Julia Stanyard  
Customer Manager (Chiltern)  
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd  
Baskerville House  
Centenary Square  
Birmingham  
B1 2ND

Simon Moore  
Network Development Manager  
The Chiltern Railway Company Limited  
Banbury Integrated Control Centre  
Higham Way (off Merton Street)  
Banbury  
Oxon  
OX16 4RN

Dear Julia and Simon

**Approval of the 124th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and The Chiltern Railway Company Limited (Chiltern)**

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 5 December 2017 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. The purpose of this letter is to set out the reasons for our decision.

2. The purpose of this agreement is to provide Chiltern with amended rights for the December 2017 timetable change. This includes:

- Extensions on the two London Marylebone–Birmingham Snow Hill services, two Birmingham–London Marylebone and three London Marylebone–Birmingham services to remove the need for passengers to make a connection;
- New direct journey opportunities from Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield to Oxford in the evening peak; and
- Starting the 17.10 Oxford Parkway–London Marylebone at Oxford to give passengers another option to travel from Oxford during the evening peak.

3. Network Rail undertook the normal industry consultation ending on 4 October 2017. Responses were received from Virgin Trains, Transport Focus and GWR with no major issues raised.

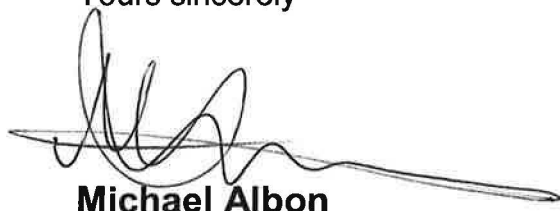
4. Our review identified no issues and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.

5. In considering the agreement and in reaching our decision, we have had to weigh and strike the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act. We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement is consistent with our section 4 duties, in particular those relating to protecting the interests of users of railway services (section 4(1)(a)), promoting the use of the railway network for the carriage of passengers (section 4(1)(b)) and enabling persons providing railway services to plan their businesses with a reasonable degree of assurance (section 4(1)(g)).

6. Under clause 18.2.4 of the track access contract, Network Rail is required to produce a conformed copy, within 28 days of any amendment being made, and send copies to ORR and the Train Operator. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

7. Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Albon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Michael Albon**