

**Jonathan Rodgers**  
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2 January 2018

Jayne Tipton  
Customer Manager  
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd  
Western House  
1 Holbrook Way  
Swindon, Wilts  
SN1 1BD

Rob Holder  
Network Access Manager  
First Greater Western Limited  
Milford House  
Milford Street  
Swindon, Wilts  
SN1 1HL

Dear Jayne and Rob

**Approval of the 15th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited (GWR) (jointly, “the parties”)**

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 22 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 amend Schedule 8, Appendix 1, in order to reflect revised monitoring points and weightings resulting from the electrification of the line from Paddington to Didcot Parkway.
3. As these changes do not affect any other operator, no consultation was required.
4. We reviewed the application and asked a number of questions regarding the methodology for the changes. All these questions were answered satisfactorily.
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)).

**Administration and public register**

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.

9. Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and to Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register 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 'Jonathan Rodgers', is positioned above the printed name.

**Jonathan Rodgers**