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27 March 2015

Dear Liz,

**RE: Section 22A Applications**

Thank you for your email dated 6<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of this letter is to respond to your comments.

I understand that Network Rail will be writing to you separately to address your comments in relation to the High Level Bridge at Newcastle.

In terms of platform occupation at Newcastle, Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) believes that there will be an overall reduction of platform occupation by VTEC as a result of these proposals. Four services per day will no longer be terminating at Newcastle as they become through trains to Edinburgh, thus removing the requirement for extended dwell at the station. The Sunderland extensions will require a similar level of occupation overall compared to today and the additional trains on a Sunday will result in two additional through services requiring approximately 4 minutes of dwell each. VTEC therefore does not believe that there will be a material impact on other operators' services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Phil Dawson'.

Phil Dawson  
Regulation & Track Access Manager

cc Mark Garner, Network Rail  
David Reed, ORR