



East Coast Main Line Company Limited
East Coast House, 25 Skeldergate
York YO1 6DH

virgintrainseastcoast.com

Michael Sasse
Rail Technical Advisor
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wellington House
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE

03 July 2015

Dear Michael,

RE: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) Section 17 Application

Thank you for your letter dated 07 April. The purpose of this letter is to respond to your comments. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

1. Service enhancements at weekends

It is correct to state that the weekday enhancements to the Bradford services do not currently apply to Saturdays and Sundays. We certainly need to explore what further weekend enhancements are possible, both from an operational and commercial perspective, and we look forward to working with WYCA in this.

I can confirm that the Leeds <> London core service is half hourly at weekends, a significant improvement compared to the service today. We plan to run 35% more trains on weekends in 2020 in order to meet passenger demand and allow for future growth. The weekend service will not match the weekday service because the markets are very different, with less business travel and more leisure travel.

2. Network Capacity and interaction with other services

VTEC is supportive of the Yorkshire Rail Network Study and is committed to working with WYCA to deliver a holistic timetable that delivers the best solution for all passengers, whether interurban or long distance.

In terms of your comments relating to the West Riding line, VTEC notes WYCA's commitment to improving the Leeds - Wakefield - Doncaster stopping service operated by Northern to a basic 2tph pattern. Should this not be possible, further consideration will need to be provided to the train service (and stopping patterns) over his route to achieve the best possible timetable solution. VTEC is committed to working with stakeholders to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Dawson'.

Phil Dawson
Regulation & Track Access Manager

cc Mark Garner, Network Rail
David Reed, ORR