

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



25 January 2024

Gary Davies-Knight
Track Access Manager
Seilwaith Amey Cymru/Amey Infrastructure
Wales Limited
Transport for Wales Infrastructure Hub
Trefforest Industrial Estate
Pontypridd CF37 5UT

Phil Allison
HSEQ Manager
RailAdventure UK Limited
35 Station Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham
B38 8SN

Dear Gary and Phil,

Directions in respect of a track access contract between Seilwaith Amey Cymru/Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited and RailAdventure UK Limited

We have today issued directions under section 18 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act) to Seilwaith Amey Cymru/Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited to enter into a track access contract (TAC) with RailAdventure UK Limited (jointly the parties). The application was submitted to the ORR by Seilwaith Amey Cymru/Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited on 4 January 2024. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

The parties originally submitted a proposed new TAC on 4 January 2024. Following our comments a revised draft was submitted to us on 22 January 2024 and our directions refer to that version of the draft contract.

Purpose

The purpose of this contract is to provide RailAdventure UK Limited with access to the Core Valley Lines for its Charter Operation. The contract is to commence on 1 February 2024 and will expire on 31 January 2029.



Industry consultation

Seilwaith Amey Cymru/Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited undertook the usual industry consultation. No concerns were raised.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some minor drafting issues which were resolved.

Our duties under Section 4 and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; in particular, those relating to promoting improvements in railway service performance (section 4(1)(b)), 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)).

Public register and administration

A copy of the Directions and the signed contract will be placed on our public register. Copies of this letter and the contract will also be placed on the ORR website. I am also copying this letter to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team.

Once the agreement is signed, in accordance with Section 72(5) of the Act, you must send a copy to ORR within 14 days.

Yours sincerely

Claire Brooks