

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



4 March 2024

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Dear Mark and Chris

Approval of the 23rd supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Grand Central Railway Company t.a Grand Central dated 1 August 2014

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 29 February 2024 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to extend Grand Central's contingent rights from SCD 2024 to PCD 2024 on the Sunderland route only, in line with the Network Rail ECML access rights policy. This is effected by replacing Table 2.2 and Table 4.1 in Schedule 5 with a new table in which the footnote indicating when the rights expire is amended from SCD 2024 to PCD 2024

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation, no concerns were raised.



ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns.

Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; 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)).

Conformed copy of the track access agreement

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.

Public register and administration

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. 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

Claire Brooks