

13 February 2015

Mr. Mark Garner Network Operations Floor 4B, George Stephenson House Toft Green York YO1 6JT

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Copy list below

Dear Mark,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the various VTEC Supplemental Agreements for 2015/16.

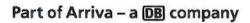
Grand Central would like to make specific comments on the Forty Ninth Supplemental Agreement relating to the extension of services to/from Newcastle and Sunderland. In particular we would highlight the need to ensure that any additional rights agreed should:

- be consistent with the capabilities of the infrastructure at Sunderland particularly with regard to train length where there are currently restrictions in place applicable to operators who serve that station
- not lead to a reduction of performance on the route between Newcastle and Sunderland – particularly with regard to operations at Heaton Depot which is currently a "hot spot" for importing delay onto the network
- not conflict with the existing firm rights of current operators on the route between Newcastle and Sunderland.

In addition, we have asked ORR to outline their timeline for assessing the abstractive impact of VTEC's short and long-term access right submissions in order that Grand Central may prepare any information needed from Grand Central.

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I would imagine that other potentially impacted operators and funders would find this detail useful as well.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McClean

Managing Director

Grand Central Railway Co. Ltd.

Cc: Phil Dawson (East Coast)

Cc, email only: Ian Yeowart (GNER)

Sharon Kelly (DBTW)