

16 August 2011

Alice Jones  
PA to Director of Legal Services  
Office of Rail Regulation  
1 Kemble Street  
London WC2B 4AN

Dear Alice,

**Consultation on consolidation and revision of freight general approvals**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. TfL is content with the proposed changes provided that they do not lead to the erosion of the existing firm rights held by all operators. The identified future requirements of passenger operators also need to be taken into account before access arrangements are altered. Network Rail will need to ensure they manage the processes required by the General Approval in an appropriate manner so that neither of the circumstances referred to above arise. It is important that the rail industry has confidence in Network Rail's performance in this area if the proposed changes are to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Smart

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