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Dear Nicole and Tom

## Twenty First supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Govia Thameslink Railway Limited (GTR)

- 1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 23 May 2018.
- 2. The purpose of this agreement is to amend Schedule 11 of the current track access contract to include a Schedule 8 reopener. The parties are currently in discussion with ORR regarding a Schedule 8 recalibration which is needed due to the recent May 2018 timetable changes. The inclusion of this reopener will allow the parties, in due course, to request that ORR consents to a relevant Schedule 8 modification. The start date of this amendment is 27 May 2018 and the backstop date is 11 November 2018.
- As this amendment does not affect any other operator, a consultation was not necessary.
- 4. Our own review did not identify any issues and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.

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- 5. In considering the agreement and in reaching our decision, we have had to weigh and strike the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act. We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement is consistent with our section 4 duties, 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)).
- 6. 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. ORR's copy should be sent for my attention.
- 7. Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Rodgers