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virgintrains**eastcoast**.com

22 June 2015

Dear Liz,

RE: Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) Section 17 Application

Thank you for your response and please accept my apologies in the delay in responding to you.

As you will hopefully be aware, as the full detail of the VTEC proposed future timetable was well known about at the time, all the relevant requirements for proposed future VTEC services to Harrogate, Bradford Forster Square, Skipton, Huddersfield and Middlesbrough, in addition to the potential for additional services between Doncaster and Leeds via Wakefield Westgate, were built in to the ITT for the future Northern franchise. It was a clear direction by the Department for Transport (DfT) for the bidders to develop timetables that accommodated these services.

Our expectation is that all of the bidders for the future Northern franchise will have complied with this requirement set out by the DfT so that any potential timetable issues will be avoided.

It is also our view that your comments about revenue abstraction will have also been factored in by the bidders for the future Northern franchise.

I hope this answers your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Phil Dawson

Regulation & Track Access Manager

cc Mark Garner, Network Rail David Reed, ORR