

Graham Richards

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23 October 2015

Claire Mahoney
Network Strategy & Planning [Western]
Network Rail
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

Dear Claire

Western Route Study

I am writing to confirm that, following consideration of the Western Route Study published on 26 August 2015, the Office of Rail and Road has concluded that there are no issues which are sufficiently material for us to issue a notice of objection.

We welcome the establishment of this Western Route Study, which represents the culmination of a substantial amount of work by yourselves and stakeholders. As the study itself notes, the assumptions made in this and any other long term planning documents have the potential to be impacted by the reviews currently underway, in particular the Hendy review. We do not consider that this should hold up the establishment of the Western Route Study. We do expect that, once the outcome of the Hendy review is known, Network Rail should assess whether there are any material impacts on this study as a consequence and communicate these with its stakeholders.

I am copying this letter to members of the Rail Industry Planning Group and am placing a copy on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Richards', written in a cursive style.

Graham Richards