25 April 2017

Dear Andriana and Tom

Sixth 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 18 April 2017.

2. The purpose of this agreement is to amend the Table of Metered Trains in Appendix 7D of Schedule 7 in the parties’ track access contract to include the entire Class 365 fleet and 1 extra unit for the Class 377 fleet. Entries to Class 319004 and 319336 shall be removed as these units are no longer part of the GTR fleet.

3. Network Rail undertook a 28 day consultation ending on 23 March 2017. They received responses from Passenger Focus and First Greater Western offering no objections.

4. Our own review identified no issues and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under section 4 of the Railways Act 1993. We did identify some drafting issues with the agreement and put this to parties. They have accepted our suggestions and amended the agreement accordingly for the formal submission.
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. 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. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

8. Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website. I am also copying this letter without enclosures to Peter Craig at Network Rail.

Yours sincerely

Michael Albon