

Jonathan Rodgers
Senior Executive, Access & Licensing
Telephone: 0207 282 3775
E-mail: jonathan.rodgers@orr.gsi.gov.uk



18 May 2018

Jayne Tipton
Customer Relationship Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
Wilts
SN1 1BD

Rob Holder
Network Access Manager
First Greater Western Limited
Milford House
1 Milford Street
Swindon
Wilts
SN1 1HL

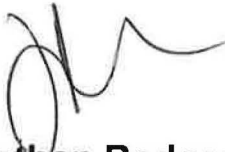
Dear Jayne and Rob

Approval of the 22nd supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited (GWR)

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 18 May 2018 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. The purpose of this letter is to set out the reasons for our decision.
2. The purpose of this agreement is to amend Schedule 5 of the track access contract to reflect the introduction of new services and changes to calling patterns for the May 2018 timetable.
3. Network Rail undertook the normal industry consultation from 22 March to 19 April 2018. There were two responses. The Welsh Government said that it was content with the application and had no comments to make. Transport Focus said that it supported the application but commented that there would be extra standing passengers on parts of the route. In response, GWR explained where there would be extra standing passengers and how long they would wait. It also explained that it felt that the provision of additional journeys outweighed this issue. In response, Transport Focus said that it did not need any further information.

4. Our review did not identify any operational, economic or performance concerns and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under Section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.
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. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.
9. Electronic copies of this letter and approval notice will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register and on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rodgers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Rodgers