27 March 2017

Dear Julie and Lanita

Third supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and East Midlands Trains Limited

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 21 March 2017.

2. This agreement amends Table 2.1 and Table 4.1 in Schedule 5 of the parties’ track access contract to reflect changes in services between Nottingham and Lincoln (and vice-versa), Newark North Gate and Lincoln (and vice-versa) and Nottingham and Grantham (and vice-versa). This forms part of EMT’s commitment with the Department for Transport to provide additional local services to existing Sunday services and to introduce better journey opportunities for passengers on two routes - Nottingham to Lincoln and Nottingham to Grantham.

3. The opportunity has also been taken to simplify the timetable by removing the current inconsistencies between the summer and the winter timetable specification. This results in the introduction of a small number of additional services between Lincoln and Newark North Gate in winter as a consequential benefit of this amendment.
4. As a consequence of the changes in Schedule 5, the parties have also updated Part 5 of Schedule 7 relating to signal box changes to reflect the extended opening hours of both Swinderby and Allington Signal Boxes.

5. Network Rail undertook a 28 day industry consultation ending on 13 December 2016. They received two responses from Transport Focus and Virgin Trains East Coast both offering no objections to the proposal.

6. Our own review of the application 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 advised the parties of some suggestions to improve the drafting quality of the supplemental agreement. They have accepted our comments and amended the agreement accordingly.

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. ORR's copy should be sent for my attention.

8. In accordance with section 72 of the Act, we will place a copy of the approval notice and the agreement on our public register. Copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at the Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

Michael Albon