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Dear Katherine,

Consultation on revisions to the model freight track access contract

Thank you very much for your letter of 30th September 2016. Network Rail is supportive of the new General Approval for freight track access contracts.

With regard to your specific questions;

- Q1. Is the proposed range of the arrival and departure windows that can be generally approved useful? Should this range be broader or narrower, and if so, why?

The proposed range of the arrival and departure windows that can be generally approved is useful and we believe it will improve industry efficiency in dealing with such applications. We believe that the range is appropriately set to strike the right balance between allowing applications that promote flexibility to proceed unhindered but provides a greater degree of diligence where applications could have impacts on other parties.

- Q2. Should the provision for amending access rights to match the Working Timetable be expanded, subject to successful industry consultation?

We are supportive of the proposed expansion.

- Q3. Do you have any comments on the above proposed changes to the General Approval, or any amendments we have not included that you think we should consider?

We have no further comments.

- Q4. Is there any value in having a revised General Approval, and what impact will a revised General Approval have on your business, positively and/or negatively?

We welcome the revised General Approval which we believe will promote efficiency.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Craig
Regulatory Reform Manager