



OFFICE OF RAIL REGULATION

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2 March 2015

Paul Plummer
Managing Director, Network Operations
Network Rail
1 Eversholt Street
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cc. Francis Paonessa

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter dated the 17th February and the enclosed Improvement Plan.

As you point out, the plan needs further work, but considering our discussions around these issues started in October, we are concerned that it is taking too long to sufficiently finalise, resource and implement the plan.

We will be updating our Board on the 24th March, with a paper submitted a week in advance. The paper will summarise the missed regulatory enhancement milestones to date in CP5; it will consider whether NR is doing everything reasonably practicable to recover the situation. The confidence we have in NR's improvement plan is key to this.

Since we wrote to you in November, there has been further slippage in the North West Phase 2 electrification project; we consider the repeat-slippage of this project to be one of the most pressing problems for NR to tackle, and yet there is very little detail in the plan associated with this.

Given the above we would like to meet to understand your view on the next steps you propose to finalise the plan and manage its implementation, and what if any further assurance you can give us before our next Board meeting in March.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Price
Director, Rail Planning and Performance



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