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26 March 2021

Jon Haskins  
Director, Periodic Review & Regulatory Compliance  
Network Rail  
The Quadrant:MK  
Elder Gate  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1EN

Dear Jon,

### **Network Rail's network statement, 2022**

I am writing to conclude ORR's review of Network Rail's latest network statement, as required of us under *The Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016* (as amended) (hereafter, "the 2016 Regulations").

We are pleased to see that your published 2022 network statement continues the increase in transparency and clarity. It is also good to see your January 2021 update, which helps confirm that network statements are live documents.

In last year's review, we commented that improvements could be made on the provision of service providers' facilities information. Since then, Network Rail has engaged with RNE's work on its **service facilities portal** to help make information provision/uploads easier – whilst aligning Network Rail's approach with that of other infrastructure managers. We welcome this proactive initiative.

We note the network statement now provides a link to the ERA website so that your work on the UK **Register of Infrastructure** can be accessed<sup>1</sup> once an account has been created. We are aware that you are discussing with DfT how this will work in future, especially with regards to the inclusion of Northern Ireland.

We also note the addition of the West Coast Main Line South Fast Lines to the **congested infrastructure** section (section 4.6), with further supporting details in a downloadable spreadsheet – a good addition – and complementary to your Code of Practice for the management of congested infrastructure, also available from section 4.6. We understand that the 2016 Code of Practice is currently under review and look forward to discussing the outcome of that consultation with you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rinf.era.europa.eu/rinf/>



We welcome the further clarifications you have brought to Chapter 5 (Services and Charges), which addresses points we have raised previously and notably the inclusion of charter operators as a market segment.

ORR reviews the network statements of several infrastructure managers and we are aiming to bring as much consistency and transparency between them, where possible, to increase their purpose and value. With this in mind we have developed a section of ORR's website at <https://www.orr.gov.uk/guidance-compliance/rail/network-statements>.

I am copying this letter to Matthew Blackwell and Colin Bendall, with thanks for their efforts in contributing to this edition and helping with our queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Les Waters'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Les Waters**