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23 April 2021

Andrew Wozencraft  
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Dear Andrew,

### **Core Valley Lines: Network Statement 2022**

I am writing to conclude ORR's review of your 2022 network statement for the Core Valley Lines ("CVL"), as required of us under *The Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016* (as amended) (hereafter, "the 2016 Regulations").

Following on from our comments on the provisional 2022 network statement, you finalised and published it in November 2020. Most of our comments were at a detailed level and were aimed at refinement and we see that you have addressed these in the main. There are, however, some key areas where we consider that your published version lacks sufficient information to be fully compliant with the 2016 Regulations. We note, in particular, the three sections:

- *Congested infrastructure* (section 4.6): This section needs to set out priority criteria for allocating congested infrastructure in line with Regulation 26(5) and (6)1. Although the CVL does not currently have congested infrastructure, criteria needs to be in place for that possibility;
- *Timetable Planning Rules* (section 4.2.2.1): This needs to set out conditions relating to previous levels of utilisation. Currently, the network statement refers only to Regulation 29(3), which does not set out conditions. However, this could be covered through Condition D4.6 of the CVL Network Code, so the network statement could provide a link to that instead; and
- *Framework Agreement* (section 3.3.1): This needs to explain the factors that would be taken into account when concluding a framework agreement (a requirement under article 6.1 of Regulation 2016/545), instead the reader is directed to make contact with the CVL infrastructure manager.

You will need to address these points by the time you consult on the provisional 2023 edition.

We also note that the information in section 7.3.2.3 relating to Service Facilities Descriptions ("SFD"s) for stations essentially points to the National Rail website. This approach will need to change – and may require some development – as all necessary SFD information is not included on the National Rail website. This could be done, possibly, in line with the



development of stations information to be held in the Rail Facilities Portal<sup>1</sup>, as currently the CVL stations information does not meet the requirements of the Implementing Regulation<sup>2</sup>.

We do recognise that the information in scope is not under your direct control – it is the responsibility of the service facility operators themselves – but, as infrastructure manager for the CVL, the requirement on you is to facilitate the collection of SFD information. A common template format is already available<sup>3</sup>, which you could promote on a relevant web page.

The 2023 network statement will, of course, need some minor revision to reflect the new operational arrangements instigated by Transport for Wales, including the renaming of the infrastructure manager to Seilwaith Amey Cymru / Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited. We are also providing some detailed comments and suggestions in an annotated Word copy of your network statement for you to consider as you prepare your 2023 edition. These are mainly aimed at addressing fine points of clarification on charging and some minor corrections (such as missing section references and internet hyperlinks).

In closing, I should add that ORR now 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 Alan Brookes at Amey and Philip Rawlings at Transport for Wales. In line with our commitment to transparency, we will place a copy of this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Les Waters'.

**Les Waters**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://railfacilitiesportal.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2177 of 22 November 2017 on access to service facilities and rail-related services – which mentions that service facility operators should make the service facility description publicly available either: \(a\) by publishing it on their web site, or a common web site, and providing you with a link to be included in your network statement; or \(b\) by providing you with the relevant and ready-to-be-published information to be included in your network statement.](#)

<sup>3</sup> Available from <https://rne.eu/downloads/>