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### **Network Rail's network statement, 2025**

1. 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).

2. We provided you with our comments on your provisional network statement in October, with the majority of them being to flag where clarifications or relatively minor edits were needed or where signposting could be improved. However, we did indicate three areas that needed some attention. These were:

- timetabling dates for the 2025 timetable year (15 December 2024 to 13 December 2025) needed updating in places;
- the publication needed to allow for the repeal of some Implementing Regulations, under the *Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023*, by the start of the 2025 timetable year; and
- the text on congested infrastructure (section 4.6) needed some updates and clarifications.

3. We are pleased to see that the network statement, as published on your web site in November, addresses the points we identified, in the main. However, we note that in the congested infrastructure section it is still unclear as to whether the 'Castlefield Corridor' is still congested or whether it is under review. If this is known, or once it becomes known, it would be worth updating the text and uploading the updated document.

4. We have also noticed errors in section 4.5.1 (Annual Timetable Path Requests) and Annex 2 (Schedule of timetabling process), where in both places the Subsidiary Timetable is stated to end on Saturday 14 December 2025, whereas it should end on 13 December 2025, as stated correctly in section 1.5.1. To avoid potential confusion, we suggest that you correct this in your publication.

5. We have no further comments on what is a good publication overall. Thank you for your continued cooperation and especially to Assad Parvez and Charlie Yianni, who have helped with our detailed queries.

6. For transparency, we will publish this letter in the *Network statements* section of our website.

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

**Les Waters**