

Les Waters
Head of Licensing



Michael Chu
Head of Regulatory Compliance & Reporting
Network Rail
The Quadrant: MK
Elder Gate
Milton Keynes
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6 December 2024

Dear Michael,

Network Rail's network statement, 2026

1. I am writing to conclude ORR's review of your 2026 network statement, as required of us under *The Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016* (as amended).
2. We reviewed the provisional version you sent to us in August 2024, requesting some further detail in Chapter 2 (regarding the rollout of the European Train Control System ("ETCS")), Chapter 3 (key dates for reaching decisions on East Coast Main Line ("ECML") access applications) and Chapter 4 (to update the congested infrastructure section).
3. We note and welcome the update to the ETCS section in November's publication. However, we consider that, in Chapter 3, given the strategic importance of the ECML, further clarity is required. Section 3.2 concerning access rights should be updated to include Network Rail's key dates for reaching access application decisions, and signpost where they will be announced and detailed. We also welcome your updates to the section on congested infrastructure in Chapter 4.
4. Once again, we appreciate your positive engagement in producing this publication and our thanks also go to Assad Parvez and Rebecca Hall, in dealing with our queries.
5. In line with our commitment to transparency, we will place a copy of this letter in the [Network statements](#) section of our website.

Yours sincerely

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

Les Waters