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Dear Industry

Updating the model charter track access contract for the Core Valley Lines interface

This consultation proposes amendments to the model charter track access contract for the Network Rail network. The amendments reflect arrangements concerning access arrangements for the Core Valley Lines (CVL) and will allow charter operators to run services smoothly between the CVL network and Network Rail's network.

Background

The CVL is the railway network running from Cardiff to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Coryton, Rhymney and Cwmbargoed. It was transferred from Network Rail to Transport for Wales on 28 March 2020. Transport for Wales lease the assets to Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited (AIW), the Infrastructure Manager for the CVL network.

Although Network Rail ceased to be the infrastructure manager for the CVL, it still provides some services, and this includes managing the performance and possessions regimes under a bilateral agreement between the two Infrastructure Managers.

The changes

We have worked together with Network Rail to produce a new draft model contract, containing [changes to Schedule 8](#) only. The changes are similar to changes that were made to the model freight track access contract following [a consultation by ORR in 2020](#). The main difference is that those freight contract changes related to Schedules 4 and 8 but charter contracts do not have a Schedule 4. The revised Schedule 8 is at Annex A to this letter.



Operators who wish to operate charter trains on the CVL will still need individual track access contracts with AIW. The changes proposed in this consultation will ensure that relevant Network Rail and CVL track access contracts are aligned.

Responding to the consultation

We welcome any comments on the proposed amendments to the model contract by 21 March 2025.

Responses can be submitted in electronic form to track.access@orr.gov.uk.

We plan to publish all responses to the consultation and, after consideration of any responses, will make the revised model contract available on our website. It will be available for use by all new applicants for a charter track access contract. Also, existing operators whose contracts have not yet been updated will be able to use Paragraph 9 of ORR's [Charter General Approval](#) to update their current contracts.

Further details about this are on the [consultation page](#) of our website.

Yours sincerely

Alice Kaiser