



## **APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF RAIL AND ROAD FOR A PASSENGER TRACK ACCESS CONTRACT, OR AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CONTRACT**

ORR ensures that train operating companies have fair access to the rail network and that best use is made of capacity. If a train operator wants to access the national railway network, it will need a track access agreement with Network Rail which requires ORR's approval under the Railways Act 1993. When determining access to the network, we must have regard to our [statutory duties](#), most of which are set out in section 4 of the Act. We must exercise our functions (which include the approval of access contracts) in a way that we consider best achieves those duties.

Use this form to apply to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) for a passenger track access contract, or an amendment to an existing contract by a supplemental agreement, under sections 17-22A or the Railways Act 1993.

It sets out ORR's standard information requirements for considering applications. Our [track access guidance](#) (and our [making an application](#) guidance in particular) explains the process, timescales and the issues we will consider. Please read the guidance before completing the contract and this form.

If the facility owner and beneficiary have agreed terms, the facility owner should fill in the form. If not, the beneficiary should fill in the form.

A pre-application industry consultation is usually required before submitting an application. Please see the industry [code of practice for track access application consultations](#) for more information.

This form should be completed up to section 10 and sent to consultees along with a copy of the proposed contract or supplemental agreement. Sections 10 and 11 should be filled in after the consultation and before applying to ORR.

We are happy to talk to you informally before you apply. Please contact us [here](#). You can download a copy of this form, and of our model track access contract, from our [website](#). Please ensure that you are using the latest version of this form as published on our website. We may ask for applications which have not used the latest version to be resubmitted.

You may also use and adapt this form if necessary to apply to use railway facilities other than those of Network Rail. Do not use this form for HS1, for which a separate form is available on our [website](#).

## 1. Application Summary

### 1.1 Beneficiary company name:

Govia Thameslink Railway Limited
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### 1.2 Facility owner details:

Network Rail:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Region:	Southern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eastern <input type="checkbox"/>	North West & Central <input type="checkbox"/>	Wales & Western <input type="checkbox"/>	Scotland's Railway <input type="checkbox"/>
Other Facility Owner:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please state:			

### 1.3 Application under the Railways Act 1993 section:

17 <input type="checkbox"/>	18 <input type="checkbox"/>	22 <input type="checkbox"/>	22A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supplemental Number:			63rd
Current contract date:			2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016
Current contract expiry date:			PCD2026

### 1.4 Applicant status:

Public Service Operator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public service contract start date:	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
	Public service contract end date:	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
	Name of funder (e.g. DfT, Local Authority):	DfT
	Does the funder support this application?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Open Access <input type="checkbox"/>		
Charter Operator <input type="checkbox"/>		

### 1.5 Executive summary of the proposed contract or amendment:

#### May 20245 Timetable Change

It is expected that the East Coast Main Line Event Steering Group timetable will be implemented for May 2025. GTR intends to introduce changes which permit alterations to mainline services south of Peterborough and aligned to changes with Anglia. In addition, at the time of writing it is expected that a new station, Cambridge South, will enter service in the period of the May 2025 timetable, so the required amendments to access rights within ET05 are being addressed within this application.

In the event of the ECML ESG timetable is not implemented in May 2025, then GTR seeks to roll over its December 2024 timetable and all of the associated rights within ET05. Again at the time of writing it is not known until when the ECML policy will get extended to, from Dec 2024, so in the event that the extension of the ECML policy ends at SCD 2025, GTR wishes to extend all its current rights that sit within the ET05 service group, both firm (table 2.1) and contingent (table 2.2) through to the implementation of the ECML ESG timetable.

Please note, at the time of submission of this 63<sup>rd</sup> Supplemental application, GTR have also submitted a 62<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental application which also requests for all of its contingent rights within table 2.2 be converted to firm rights. GTR requests that these rights also get extended as firm rights under this application.

Proposed commencement date:	SCD25
End date:	PCD26
Date approval or directions wanted by:	For the proposed commencement date

### 1.6 Industry consultation:

Who carried out the consultation?	Network Rail		
Consultation start date:		Consultation end date:	
Not carried out <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

**1.7 Applicant details**

<p><u>Facility Owner</u>                  Company: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited                  Contact name: Rebecca Mordey                  Job title: Franchise &amp; Access Manager                  Address:                  1 Puddledock                  London                  EC4V 3DS</p> <p>Phone: [REDACTED]                  E-mail: [REDACTED]</p>	<p><u>Beneficiary</u>                  Company: Govia Thameslink Railway Limited                  Contact name: Darren Gay                  Job title: Track Access Contract Manager                  Address:                  1<sup>st</sup> Floor                  24 Monument Place                  London                  EC3R 8AJ</p> <p>Phone: [REDACTED]                  E-mail: [REDACTED]</p>
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**1.7 Date of application to ORR:**

**MAY 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**1.8 Checklist of documents attached to the application form:**

- Proposed new contract (S17 or S18) or supplemental agreement (S22 or S22A)
- Marked up Schedule 5 (where applicable)
- Marked up comparison to model contract (where applicable)
- All consultation correspondence
- Supporting documentation required for competing services (see section 6.2)
- Other supporting documents, side letters or collateral agreements (please list):


**2. Licence and railway safety certificate**

**2.1 Please state whether:**

- you intend to operate the services yourself; or
- have them operated on your behalf. 
  - if so, please name the proposed operating company:

**2.2 Does the proposed operator of the services:**

- (a) hold a valid train operating licence under section 8 of the Railways Act 1993 or an exemption under section 7, **and**
- (b) hold a valid safety certificate under the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006.

If the answer to (a) **or** (b) is no, please state the point reached in obtaining a licence, exemption and/or safety certificate.

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**3. The proposed contract or amendment**

**3.1 Application overview:** Please detail the proposed contract or amendment. This should cover the services, the commercial terms, and the reasons for making the application in the terms proposed.

This information should be laid out clearly and concisely, and fully highlight the changes from the previous version of the contract (in the case of an amendment).

#### **East Coast Main Line Event Steering Group Timetable**

At the time of writing, and following its deferral from Dec 2024, it is expected that the ECML ESG timetable will be implemented in May 2025 (SCD2025). This will affect all of GTR's access rights within the ET05 service group. This Supplemental addresses the changes that need to be made to the access rights and tables within service group ET05 for the ECML ESG implementation.

Alternatively, if the ECML ESG timetable is not implemented in May 2025), then GTR seeks to have the access rights within ET05 rolled over until PCD 2025 as firm rights or to the revised end date of the ECML Policy, whichever is the later.

ET05 service group includes TSC's 725, 725 and 727 covering the following lines of route.

#### **ET05 – GN Outer and TL ECML - GN services between:**

King's Cross and Ely/Kings Lynn  
King's Cross and Letchworth-Royston/Cambridge (Slow)  
King's Cross and Peterborough

- TL ECML services between The Core and Cambridge Stations or Peterborough

In order to deliver the proposed GTR May 2025 TT the following amendments and additional access rights are required

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amendment Required</i>
Kings Lynn to Kings Cross 5.5	<i>SX OFF Peak – Increased by 1 (from 21 to 22)</i> <i>SO Increased by 3 (from 25 to 28))</i> <i>SUN Increased by 1 (from 16 to 17)</i>
Cambridge to Kings Cross 5.16	<i>SUN Increased by 1 (from 17 to 18))</i>
Royston to Kings Cross 5.19	<i>SX OFF Peak Increased by 1 (from 1 to 2)</i> <i>SUN Increased by 1 (from 0 to 1)</i>
Letchworth Garden City to Kings Cross 5.20	<i>SX AM Peak Increased by 2 (from 3 to 5)</i>
Kings Cross to Peterborough 5.21	<i>SX PM Peak Increased by 3 (From 1 to 4)</i>
Cambridge to Kings Lynn 5.26	<i>SUN Increased by 1 (from 0 to 1)</i>
Kings Cross to Letchworth Garden City - 5.37	<i>SX PM Peak Increased by 3 (From 1 TO 4))</i> <i>SUN - Increased by 1 (from 4 to 5)</i>

#### **Cambridge South Station**

This supplemental also addresses the introduction of a new station, Cambridge South and the required changes to the tables in service group ET05. Cambridge South Station is due to open during the May 2025 timetable. Stops at this station have been inserted into the following services:

#### **Weekdays**

2tph London Kings Cross to Cambridge and Kings Lynn  
2tph Brighton to Cambridge  
2tph (peak) and 1tph (off peak) London Kings Cross to Cambridge (stopping train)

#### **Sundays**

1tph London Kings Cross to Cambridge and Kings Lynn  
1tph Brighton to Cambridge  
1tph London Kings Cross to Cambridge (stopping)

The above will require no increase in quantum but will require changes to the calling patterns of the above-mentioned services. These are captured in the table below.

This plan is subject to the implementation of the ECML ESG Timetable, however, should the timetable not be implemented, then the above service frequency will not be possible at Cambridge South and whilst trains will still stop at the station, the number of calls will be limited.

1					2	3
Service Group: ET05 63rd <sup>SA</sup>						
Service description: Great Northern Outer						
Between	And	Via	Description	TSC	Regular Calling Pattern	Additional stations
Peterborough	Kings Cross	Welwyn Garden City	5.3/5.23	21727000	Huntingdon, St Neots, Sandy, Biggleswade, Arlesey, Hitchin, Stevenage, Finsbury Park	
Peterborough	Blackfriars	Welwyn Garden City	5.4	22727100	Huntingdon, St Neots, Sandy, Biggleswade, Arlesey, Hitchin Stevenage, Finsbury Park, St Pancras International, Farringdon, City Thameslink	Knebworth, Welwyn Garden City
Kings Lynn	Kings Cross	Welwyn Garden City	5.5/5.25	21725000	Watlington, Downham Market, Littleport, Ely, Baldock, Waterbeach, Cambridge North, Cambridge, Cambridge South	Royston, Ashwell & Mordey, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Finsbury Park

Kings Lynn	Kings Cross	Welwyn Garden City	5.6	21725000	Watlington, Downham Market, Littleport, Ely, Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth, Royston, Ashwell & Moden, Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth, Welwyn North, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, Potters Bar, Finsbury Park Waterbeach, Cambridge North, Cambridge	
Kings Lynn	Cambridge		5.7/5.26	21725000	Watlington, Downham Market, Littleport, Ely, Cambridge North Waterbeach,	
Ely	Kings Cross	Welwyn Garden City	5.8/5.27	21725000	Waterbeach, Cambridge North, Cambridge, Cambridge South	Royston, Ashwell & Morden, Letchworth Garden City
Ely	Cambridge		5.9/5.28	21725000	Waterbeach, Cambridge North	
Cambridge	Blackfriars	Welwyn Garden City	5.13	22726100	Cambridge South, Royston, Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Finsbury Park, St Pancras International, Farringdon, City Thameslink	
Cambridge	Kings Cross	Welwyn Garden City	5.15./5.34	217261000	Cambridge South, Royston, Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Finsbury Park	Ashwell & Morden

Cam- bridge	Kings Cross	Wel- wyn Garden City	5.16/5.39	21726100	Cambridge South, Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth, Royston, Ashwell & Morden, Baldock, Letch- worth Garden City, Hitchin, Ste- venage, Kneb- worth, Welwyn North, Welwyn Garden City, Hat- field, Potters Bar, Alexandra Palace Finsbury Park
Kings Cross	Cam- bridge	Wel- wyn Garden City	5.35	21725000/ 21726000	Royston, Ashwell & Morden, Baldock, Letch- worth Garden City, Hitchin, Ste- venage, Alexandra Palace, Finsbury Park
Royston	Kings Cross	Wel- wyn Garden City	5.18/5.38	21726000	Aswell & Morden, Baldock, Letch- worth Garden City, Hitchin, Ste- venage, Kneb- worth, Welwyn North, Welwyn Garden City, Hat- field, Potters Bar, Alexandra Palace Finsbury Park
Royston	Kings Cross	Wel- wyn Garden City	5.19/	22726100	Ashwell & Mor- den, Baldock, Letchworth Gar- den City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Kneb- worth, Welwyn North, Welwyn Garden City, Hat- field, Potters Bar, Alexandra Palace Finsbury Park,
St Pancras Internat- ional	Peterbor- ough	Wel- wyn Garden City	5.24	22727100	St Neots, Sandy, Biggleswade, Finsbury Park, Stevenage, Hitchin, Arlesey, Biggleswade, St Neots, Huntingdon

St Pancras International	Cambridge	Welwyn Garden City	5.31	22726100	Finsbury Park, Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City, Baldock, Royston, Cambridge South		
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**ECML ESG DEFERRAL**

Should the ECML ESG timetable be deferred past SCD2025, then GTR wishes for all its access rights in ET05 to be rolled over from the December 2024 timetable through to PCD2025 as firm rights, at which point it will implement its ECML ESG timetable changes detailed above.

Full tables can be found in Annex A and B of this Form P.

**3.2 Safety risks:** Please explain any important safety risks that have been identified arising from the proposal and how these will be controlled (by reference to the facility owner's safety authorisation and the train operator's safety certificate).

GTR's ECML schedules have been amended in line with the ECML vent Steering Group outputs to facilitate changes to LDHS LNER services. GTR has been working collaboratively as part of the ESG for over four years and its plans are in line with this.

**3.3 Contract duration:** For new agreements or extensions to existing agreements, please provide justification for the proposed duration and, if more than 5 years, with reference to the [Railways \(Access, Management and Licensing\) Regulations 2016](#).

N/A

**3.4 Terms not agreed with the facility owner (for applications under sections 17 or 22A only):** Please explain any areas of the application which have ***not*** been agreed, the reasons for the failure to agree and the reasons for seeking these provisions.

This is a Section 22A application due to the fact that this application has not undergone internal Network Rail consultation nor Industry consultation at the time of submission to the ORR. However, extensive talks have been held between GTR and Network rail regarding the proposed amendments covered in this Supplemental. Internal Network Rail and industry consultation will take place as soon as possible.

**3.5 Bespoke provisions (departures from ORR's model access contracts)**

Does the proposed contract include any departures from ORR's model access contract:

Yes  No

If yes, please set out and explain any:

- areas where the drafting of the application changes ORR's published template access contracts (as appropriate, cross-referencing to the answers below). Please also explain why these departures have been made.



Not applicable

- instances where the proposal departs from the charging and/or performance regimes established by ORR's latest periodic review (or subsequent interim reviews) as reflected in ORR's model access contracts, including the financial implications (e.g. establishment of an access charge supplement or rebate).

Not applicable

- new processes (e.g. a self-modification provision) which have been added. Please also demonstrate fully how this new process is robust and complete.

Not applicable

### 3.6 Consolidated contract

For amendments to existing contracts, is the version of the consolidated contract on our [website](#) fully up to date? If not, please explain why not.

Yes

## 4. The impacts of the proposal

**4.1 Benefits:** please set out what specific benefits the proposal will achieve. Please describe the benefits to passengers and any impact on other operators, including freight operators.

The extension of these access rights will allow GTR to continue to deliver its service along the ECML, with the amendments allowing for an improved service for its customers. In addition, the introduction of stops at the new Cambridge South station will provide additional travel options to passengers in the region.

**4.2 Capacity:** How have you satisfied yourself that there is enough network capacity for the services in the proposal? Please include details on all relevant capacity considerations, including but not limited to track, platform availability, and power supply traction.

GTR's ECML schedules have been amended in line with the ECML Event Steering Group outputs to facilitate changes to LDHS LNER services. GTR has been working collaboratively as part of the ESG for over four years and its plans are in line with this.

**4.3 Performance:** What is the impact on network performance? Please outline your assurance process that shows that any performance risk is tolerable in comparison to the benefits of the application. Please explain any risk mitigations. Please attach any associated evidence to support your case.

Performance modelling has shown a number of key benefits to the proposed changes, these include:

- Improved northbound journey times between King's Cross and King's Lynn (1h42, 7 minutes quicker);
- Improved northbound journey times between St Pancras and Cambridge (consistently 1h07, between 2 and 6 minutes quicker);
- Improved northbound journey times between King's Cross and Cambridge (stopping services, consistently 1h27 between 3 and 6 minutes quicker);
- Both trains per hour between Cambridge and Brighton call at Ashwell & Morden in both directions providing quicker journey times to both London and Cambridge;
- Better platform utilisation at King's Cross where turnrounds have been reduced from 39 to 22 minutes on our King's Lynn / Ely services and from 31 to 14 minutes on our Cambridge stoppers. This means we only need two platforms off-peak and most of Saturday instead of three or four;
- Improved peak journey times from stations between Cambridge and Letchworth to / from London during both peak hours;
- Recast GN Metro service to / from Moorgate which delivers a consistent 7-8 minute off-peak frequency (8tph) between Finsbury Park and Moorgate alongside other frequency improvements;

**4.4 Maintenance and renewals:** Are there any implications for the facility owner's maintenance and renewal activities?

There is no impact on maintenance or the Engineering Access Statement as result of this proposal.

## 5. The expression of access rights

**5.1 Changes to rights:** please provide full descriptions of any new rights required, as compared to the previous contract (in the case of an amendment). Please attach a fully marked-up version or document comparison of any tables in Schedule 5 which are being modified as a result of this application.

Specific line changes within Schedule 5 Table 2.1 and 4.1 are required within ET05. These are outlined in the table in section 3.1 above. Marked up tables for ET05 in Appendix A.

**5.2 Flexing rights:** Please explain any limitations on the facility owner's flexing rights in the proposal and the rationale for such limitations.

All rights are quantum only and do not contain flexing limitations.

**5.3 Specified equipment:** Please explain any changes to specified equipment (rolling stock). Has the vehicle and route acceptance procedure in the Network Code (Part F) has been completed? Please explain whether you have, or will have, the rolling stock necessary to exercise the rights.

Not applicable – there are no rolling stock or timing load amendments required for this application.

**5.4 Contractual obligations:** Are the proposed services necessary to fulfil obligations under a public service contract? For publicly contracted operators seeking additional access rights, we will expect to

see evidence of funder support for the specific rights and of operators' intent and ability to operate the new services.

The services that GTR are seeking to operate are part of the GTR Train Service Specification with the DfT.

**5.5 Public funding:** Other than the DfT, Welsh Government or Transport Scotland, are the proposed services subject to financial support from central or local government including PTEs. If so, please give details.

There is no public funding of the services.

**5.6 Long Term Planning Process:** Is the Long Term Planning Process (or similar devolved authority or regional service delivery project) relevant to this application? If so, please explain how the proposed rights are consistent or inconsistent with this.

Not applicable.

## 6. Competing passenger services:

We would expect to apply the 'not primarily abstractive' test to:

- (i) a new open access service which would compete with franchised services and so impact on the public sector funder's budget;
- (ii) a new franchised service which would compete with an existing franchised service, where we would expect to focus the test on areas where the competing franchised services are operated on behalf of different funders or where for some other reason there are particular concerns over the impact on a funder's budget; and
- (iii) a new service, which might be open access or franchised, which would compete with an existing open access service and which, if it caused the existing open access operator to withdraw from the market, could reduce overall competition on the network.

**6.1** Please state if your application is for a competing passenger service, and if so please describe the nature of the competition:

*There are no competing aspirations that impact on this application.*

**6.2** For competing services, please also confirm that you have attached as part of your submission to ORR the following:

- Business plan, including details of:
  - forecasts of passenger traffic and revenues, including forecast methodology;
  - pricing strategies;
  - ticketing arrangements;
  - rolling stock specifications (e.g. load factor, number of seats, wagon configuration);
  - marketing strategy;
  - estimated elasticities of the services (e.g. price elasticity, elasticity with respect to quality characteristics of the services).
- Demand forecasting (including associated spreadsheet models) demonstrating modelled generation : abstraction ratio.
- Indicative timetables, including associated .spg files

## 7. Incentives

**7.1 Train operator performance:** please describe any planned performance improvement initiatives and/or enhancement projects associated with the operation of the proposed services aimed at improving operator performance.

Not Applicable

**7.2 Facility owner performance:** please describe any planned performance improvement initiatives and/or enhancement projects associated with the operation of the proposed services aimed at improving the facility owner's performance.

Not Applicable

**7.3 Monitoring of services:** Will all proposed services be monitored for performance throughout their journey? If not, please explain.

All trains will be monitored as per usual industry processes.

**7.4 Performance regime changes (for applications under sections 17 or 22A only):** where applicable, please provide justification for any changes to Schedule 8 of the track access contract in the proposal. If necessary, please provide any relevant information in support of the changes proposed.

Not Applicable

## 8. Enhancement

**8.1 Enhancement details:** where the proposal provides for the delivery of any network enhancements, or the services in the proposal are subject to any planned network enhancements, please give full details of the relevant enhancement schemes, including a summary of outputs from the scheme, timescales and the extent to which the network change procedure in the Network Code (Part G) has been completed (where appropriate, by reference to submissions made under ORR's enhancement reporting framework).

No specific enhancements are required

**8.2 Enhancement charges:** please confirm that the arrangements for the funding of any network enhancements are consistent with the [investment framework](#), and summarise the level and duration of payments, and the assumed rate of return.

Not applicable

## 9. Other

**9.1 Associated applications to ORR:** please state whether this application is being made in parallel with, or relates to, any other current or forthcoming application to ORR (e.g. in respect of track, station or light maintenance depot access contracts). Where the application is being made in parallel with any other application from the same operator, please ensure the applications are consistent with one another. Where the application relies on another operator relinquishing access rights, please provide evidence that this process has been completed.

This is a standalone application.

**9.2 Side letters and collateral agreements:** please confirm here that the whole of the proposal between the parties has been submitted with this application and that there are no side letters or other documents which affect it.

May 2025/Dec 2025 Timetable & Extension of ET05 Access Rights

- Marked up Proposed Table 2.1

There are no side letters or collateral agreements between the parties in relation to this application.

**9.3 Confidential redactions:** please list any information that you have redacted from any documentation sent to consultees. If there has been no pre-application consultation, please list any information you want us to exclude from publication. Please provide full reasons for any redactions.

None required.

### 10. Pre-application consultation

#### 10.1 The consultation:

If consultation has not been carried out, explain why not. If it has, please list the consultees.

Not applicable

Who conducted the consultation?

Not Applicable

List all consultees who responded and include their responses and any associated documentation or correspondence between the parties.

**10.2 Resolved issues:** please explain any issues raised by consultees which have been resolved.

**10.3 Unresolved issues:** Please explain any issues raised by consultees which have **not** been satisfactorily resolved and why you think these issues should not stop ORR approving the application.

**10.4 Subsequent Changes:** Have any changes been made to the proposal following consultation?

### 11. Certification

*Warning: Under section 146 of the Railways Act 1993, any person who, in giving any information or making any application under or for the purposes of any provision of the Railways Act 1993, makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes any statement which is false in a material particular, is guilty of an offence and so liable to criminal prosecution.*

**For agreed applications under section 18 or 22, Network Rail should complete the information below. For disputed applications under section 17 or 22A, the beneficiary should complete it.**

I certify that the information provided in this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge



Signed .....

Date 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Name (in caps)..DARREN GAY

Job title ..Track Access Contract Manager

For (company) Govia Thameslink Railway Limited



## 12. Submission

**12.1 What to send:** please supply the application form, the proposed contract or amendment and, where possible, any other supporting information, in electronic form by e-mail, **in plain Microsoft Word or Open Document Text format** (i.e. excluding any macros, auto-para or page numbering, or other auto-formatting).

### 12.2 Where to send it:

Email: [track.access@orr.gov.uk](mailto:track.access@orr.gov.uk)