

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



10 December 2024

Rebecca Mordey
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddle Dock
London EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
Govia Thameslink Railway Ltd
1st Floor, Monument Place
London EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren,

Approval of the 66th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Govia Thameslink Railway Limited (trading as Thameslink) dated 2 March 2016.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 10 December 2024 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to amend the existing calling pattern of the Streatham Hill to London Bridge (via Tulse Hill) service to include East Dulwich and Queens Road Peckham stations. This will enable an empty coaching stock move to be converted into a passenger service. This change is needed after recent changes to the service group meant no direct train between Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill, which would be deemed a line closure under the Railways Act 1993. This change will commence on Principal Change date 2024 and end on Principal Change Date 2026.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments were received from Great Western Railway who had no objections.

ORR review

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Our review of the application raised one operational query relating to the conversion of the ECS movement to a passenger, and why this hadn't increased quantum. Network Rail explained that another service was using that right but had been withdrawn, so the ECS movement to Passenger wasn't creating an additional need but using an existing right. No other queries were raised.

Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; in particular, those relating to protecting the interests of users of railway services (section 4(1)(a)), promoting the use of the railway network for the carriage of passengers (section 4(1)(b)) and enabling persons providing railway services to plan their businesses with a reasonable degree of assurance (section 4(1)(g)).

Conformed copy of the track access agreement

Under clause 18.2.4 of the track access contract, Network Rail is required to produce a conformed copy, within 28 days of any amendment being made, and send copies to ORR and the Train Operator. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

Public register and administration

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website), and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

C Brooks

Claire Brooks