

**Graham Richards**

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06 November 2015

Chris Rowley  
Network Rail  
Waterloo Station  
London  
SE1 8SW

Dear Chris

**Sussex Route Study**

I am writing to confirm that following consideration of the Sussex Route Study, published on 8 September 2015, the Office of Rail and Road has received no objections and has concluded there are no issues which are sufficiently material for us to issue a notice of objection.

We welcome the establishment of this Sussex Route Study, which represents the culmination of a substantial amount of work by yourselves and stakeholders. As the study itself notes, the assumptions made in this and any other long term planning documents have the potential to be impacted by the reviews currently underway, in particular the Hendy review. We do not consider that this should hold up the establishment of the Sussex Route Study. We do expect that, once the outcome of the Hendy review is known, Network Rail will assess whether there are any material impacts on this study as a consequence and communicate these with its stakeholders.

On 27 March 2015 we published our policy on "Third Rail DC Electrification Systems". We expect the electrification study to review the impact of this policy on the electrical system requirements in order to accommodate growth on this and other routes.

I am copying this letter to members of the Rail Industry Planning Group and am placing a copy on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Richards', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Graham Richards**



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