

**Michael Albon**  
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24 August 2017

Jayne Tipton  
Customer Relationship Manager  
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd  
Western House  
1 Holbrook Way  
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Wilts  
SN1 1BD

Rob Holder  
Network Access Manager  
First Greater Western Limited  
Milford House  
1 Milford Street  
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Dear Jayne and Rob

**Approval of the 12th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited**

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 24 August 2017 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. The purpose of this letter is to set out the reasons for our decision.
2. The purpose of this agreement is:
  - to provide firm long-term quantum rights for the amendments made to the London Paddington – Reading service introduced under the General Approval (11th supplemental agreement) on 3 July 2017; and
  - to provide long-term quantum rights to amended Henley-on-Thames – London Paddington service and Oxford – London Paddington service.

This agreement will be amending table 2.1 and table 2.2 in Schedule 5 of the parties' track access contract and the services will be taking effect from 4 September 2017.

3. Network Rail undertook the normal industry consultation from 30 June 2017 to 28 July 2017 and received one response from Transport Focus who supported the application.
4. Our review identified no issues and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under Section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.
5. In considering the agreement and in reaching our decision, we have had to weigh and strike the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act. We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement is consistent with our section 4 duties, 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)).
6. 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.
7. Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport. 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. I am also copying this letter without enclosures to Peter Craig at Network Rail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Albon', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Michael Albon**