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22 April 2013

Dear Gerry,

Re: Review of the General Approval (Stations) 2010 & General Approval (Depots) 2010 (dated 26 February 2013)

Thank you consulting with Stagecoach South Western Trains Limited (SSWT) and East Midlands Trains Limited (EMT) regarding your review of the current use and effectiveness of the General Approval process. It is the general view of SSWT and EMT that the General Approval mechanism works well, however we welcome ORR's approach to seek to make further simple improvements.

Further to the proposed changes set out in your Review, our responses are set out below:

General Approval (Stations) 2010 - proposed changes

1. *Do you agree with the changes we have proposed in paragraphs 1 to 5 above?*

SSWT/EMT support and agree to the proposed changes. Reference Q3 regarding the new "full repairing" version of the Station Access Conditions, whilst this is not currently relevant to SSWT or EMT it may be of relevance in the future and we would be happy to support the use of alternative SACs being permissible under General Approval.

General Approval (Depots) 2010 - proposed changes

1. *Do you agree with the changes we have proposed in paragraph 1?*

SSWT/EMT agrees this is not contentious and support the proposed change.

Proposed amendments to our template access agreements

1. *Do you agree with the changes we have proposed in paragraphs 1 to 3 above?*

SSWT/EMT support and agree to the proposed changes. We have no further comment in relation to your template documents.

In summary, SSWT/EMT consider that the General Approval brings efficiency to the regulated change process, believe it to be working well, and support the proposed changes set out in your consultation. We look forward to their swift implementation and hope our comments above have been useful.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Teesdale
Industry Contracts Manager
Stagecoach South Western Trains Limited
East Midlands Trains Limited