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16 March 2018

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Rob Holder
Network Access Manager
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Milford House
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Dear Steven and Rob

Approval of the 20th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited (GWR)

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 16 March 2018 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 amend Schedule 5 of the track access contract to reflect the introduction of new services from the December 2017 timetable. The amendment and additions to access rights are required as part of the roll out of the Greater Western Electrification Programme. Contingent rights for these services were granted on 18 December 2017.
3. Network Rail undertook the normal industry consultation from 18 December 2018 to 12 January 2018. There were no responses regarding this application.
4. Our review identified a significant number of drafting issues and mistakes with the supplemental agreement that needed clarification and correction. All of these issues were either clarified satisfactorily or corrected.

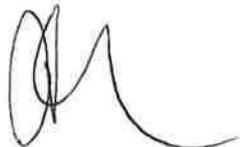
5. Our review did not identify any further issues and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under Section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.

6. 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)).

7. 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.

9. Electronic copies of this letter and approval notice will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register and on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Rodgers