

**Les Waters**  
**Senior Manager, Licensing**  
Email: les.waters@orr.gov.uk



12 May 2021

Jane Kerr  
Planning & Access Manager  
Infrastructure Systems & Performance  
25 Duncrue Street  
Belfast  
BT3 9AR

Dear Jane,

**Northern Ireland Railways Company Limited (NIR): Network Statement 2022**

I am writing to conclude ORR's review of NIR's 2022 network statement, as required of us under *The Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016* (the Regulations).

We commented on your 2022 provisional version on 10 December 2020, following which you published the final version at the end of January 2021. This edition continues the trend of providing further and clearer information, and your separate Service Facilities Description document is a notable addition to the statement. The 2022 network statement also benefits from an earlier publication date.

Following our comment last year, we note that you have confirmed (in section 4.4.4) the omission of a Framework Capacity Statement since your access contracts do not exceed one timetable period. You have also confirmed, in relation to section 6.4 (Performance Scheme), that cancelled trains are not penalised. This point is worth including in your 2023 edition. As you start to prepare for that, we encourage you to check that where the Regulations require the network statement to contain specific information – such as information about procedures for dispute resolution – that the hyperlink you provide leads directly to that information, rather than to a corporate landing page.

In our video meeting of 19 March, we discussed EU Exit and the issues this was raising for you, including those around the preparation of infrastructure data for, and uploading into, the Register of Infrastructure<sup>1</sup>, which your network statement must reference. We also acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic, was causing some operational timetable issues in the relative short-term.

We are continuing to take a pragmatic and proportionate approach to our controlling role and we are not aware of any competitive situation in Northern Ireland to indicate that we should direct you to make changes to your 2022 published network statement.

In closing I should add that ORR now reviews the network statements of several infrastructure managers and we are aiming to bring as much consistency and transparency between them, where possible, to increase their purpose and value. With this in mind we have developed a section of ORR's website at <https://www.orr.gov.uk/guidance-compliance/rail/network-statements>.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://rinf.era.europa.eu/RINF>



I am copying this letter to John Glass and Ciaran Moore. In line with our commitment to transparency, we will place a copy of this letter on our website.

Thank you for your positive engagement once again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Les Waters', is positioned above the printed name.

**Les Waters**