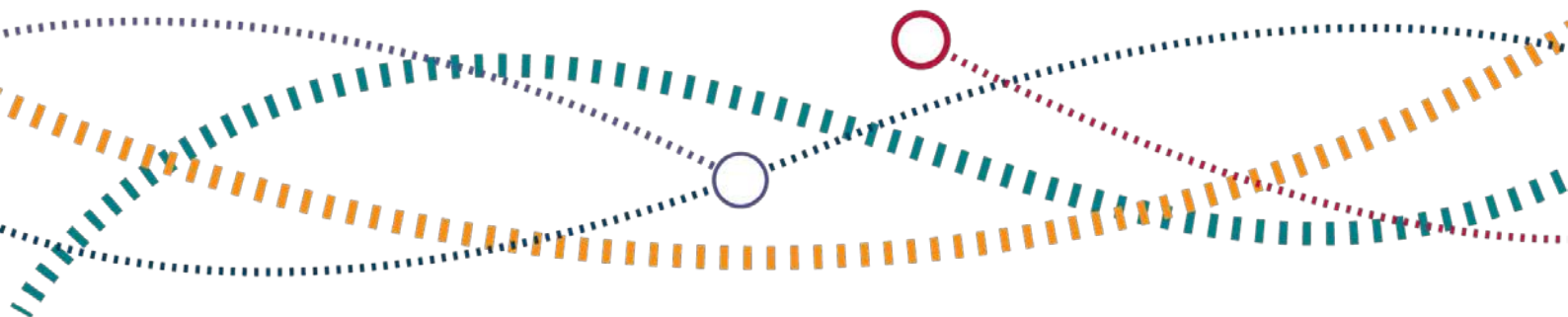




# Introduction

28 July 2021



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Track access guidance modules

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# Track access guidance modules

- 1 ORR ensures that passenger and freight train operating companies have fair access to the rail network and that best use is made of capacity. The focus of this guidance is the national rail network operated by Network Rail which forms the vast majority of the rail network in Great Britain. While many of the principles explained here may also apply to networks operated by other infrastructure managers, please see also the modules on 'other networks'.
- 2 If a train operator wants to access the national railway network, it will need a track access agreement with Network Rail which requires ORR's approval under the Railways act 1993. The modules in the *Track Access Guidance* series explains the criteria and procedures we expect to follow when dealing with applications for new track access contracts or any amendments to existing track access contracts.
- 3 These modules replaced our *Criteria and procedures for the approval of track access contracts* (C&Ps) the final version of which was dated 23 December 2011. We consider these separate models are more accessible to users and can be updated more easily than the old C&Ps which ran to many hundreds of pages. Please check our [website](#) for the latest edition of each module.
- 4 We will normally consult on major changes to our guidance, as appropriate. We will not necessarily conduct a full industry consultation on every update, particularly where changes are necessary to reflect changes in legislation, minor clarifications and amendments, or in response to recommendations from others that have already been consulted on.
- 5 Please let us know if you think any aspects of this guidance can be improved, need updating, or if there are other areas that would benefit from additional guidance modules. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. The guidance includes links to other areas of track access work such as policy documents and access decisions. If you cannot find the guidance you need, please [contact us](#).



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