

Jonathan Haskins  
Director, Periodic Review & Regulatory Compliance  
Network Rail  
By Email

14 September 2021

Sneha Patel  
Head of Network Regulation  
Railway Planning & Performance

Dear Jon

**Re: Railway Boards**

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2021 relating to Railway Boards and the obligations to publish Board information<sup>1</sup>.

We confirm we are in agreement that, as a result of the evolving role and purpose of the Railway Boards, the expectations relating to Railway Boards' publishing regular information as set out in ORR's Final Determination should be set aside.

Agreement to this is on the basis that:

- There is continued engagement with ORR in relation to Railway Boards; including sharing meeting information with us, ORR attending board meetings as observers and meeting with board chairs as appropriate.
- Network Rail is committed to publishing the terms of reference for each Railway Board and include high level reference to the work of the Boards in its Annual Report & Accounts (to next be published in July 2022).
- Network Rail will continue, in the spirit of transparency to all stakeholders, to look for further opportunities to be transparent in the work of the Railway Boards where appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 3.36 and Box 3.2 of ORR's 'Overview of approach and decisions' Final Determination document (published October 2018) states that Railway Boards should "publish a key messages report with actions following each meeting and publish an annual plan for passengers explaining what they can expect from Network Rail."

- Network Rail recognises effective stakeholder engagement is a fundamental part of how it seeks to improve its business performance on a continual basis and continues to work to show how stakeholder feedback has been embedded into its decision-making.

We will monitor these new arrangements and we may need to discuss this further in the future.

We will publish both Network Rail's and this letter on this matter on our website.

Yours sincerely



Sneha Patel