

**Louise Beilby**  
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8 February 2022

Richard Turner  
Customer Relationships Executive  
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd  
Western House  
1 Holbrook Way  
Swindon  
SN1 1BD

Robert Holder  
Network Access Manager  
First Greater Western Ltd  
Milford House  
1 Milford Street  
Swindon  
SN1 1HL

Dear Richard and Robert

**Approval of the 75th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited dated 4 March 2016**

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 8 February 2022 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this agreement is to extend the expiry date of First Greater Western's track access contract for a further timetable period. The amendment will apply from the Subsidiary Change Date 2022 and will expire on the Principal Change Date 2022 or earlier termination of First Greater Western's track access contract.

**Industry consultation**

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments in support were received from Cross Country Trains and MTR Elizabeth Line; there were no objections or queries.



## **ORR review**

ORR's operations team had a number of queries relating to the planned introduction of weaving services between London and Slough and a possible Bristol "superfast" service. Network Rail has advised that neither of these measures is due to commence until PCD 2022 and therefore do not relate to this particular agreement, although they will need to be taken into account for any application to extend the contract further.

## **Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision**

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; 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)).

## **Conformed copy of the track access agreement**

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.

## **Public register and administration**

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Beilby'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Louise Beilby**