

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



25 March 2024

Sam Wheelan
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
Square One
4 Travis Street
Manchester M1 2NY

Chris Hassall
Head of Commercial Contracts
TransPennine Trains Ltd
8th Floor
Bridgewater House
60 Whitworth Street
Manchester M1 6LT

Dear Sam and Chris,

Approval of the 57th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and TransPennine Trains Limited (trading as TransPennine Express (TPE)) dated 3 March 2016.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 18 March 2024 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 TPE's contingent rights on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) from the Subsidiary Change Date (SCD) in June 2024 to the Principal Change Date (PCD) in December 2024 in line with the Network Rail ECML access rights policy. This is effected by replacing Table 2.2 in Schedule 5 with a new table in which the footnote indicating when the rights expire is amended from SCD 2024 to PCD 2024. This supports the June timetable change.

In addition, an administrative error in Sch 5 table 2.1 has been amended. This error occurred during the 22nd SA whereby contingent rights were added incorrectly to firm rights on the Manchester Piccadilly to York route. Both tables have been amended.



Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. No issues were raised.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns.

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

Claire Brooks