

Jonathan Rodgers
Senior Executive



19 June 2025

Hardeep Billing
Franchise and Access Support Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
2nd Floor, Baskerville House
Centenary Square, Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2ND

Bevis Thomas
Head of Train Planning
The Chiltern Railway Company Ltd
Banbury Integrated Control Centre
Higham Way
Banbury
OX16 4RN

Dear Hardeep and Bevis

Approval of the 15th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and The Chiltern Railway Company Limited (trading as Chiltern Railways (Chiltern)) dated 7 October 2022

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 13 June 2025 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 the parties' track access contract from the current date, Subsidiary Change Date (SCD) 2026, to Principal Change Date (PCD) 2029. No other changes are being made in this application.

The amendment is effective from today, the date of our approval of this supplemental agreement.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation for one month from 17 April 2025. Responses stating no objection were received from Great Western Railway and Cross Country and Transport Focus.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. The extension to the expiry date track access contract is in line with our guidance.

Head Office: 25 Cabot Square, London E14 4QZ T: 020 7282 2000 orr.gov.uk



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

Jonathan Rodgers