



From Ms Andrea Pearson OBE
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16 July 2025

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2025, regarding Section 17 of the applications in respect of Temple Mills International Depot, and for providing the opportunity to make representations. I appreciate the continued clarity and diligence the ORR is bringing to this process.

As you are aware, and as stated in my response to the ORR's consultation on the Temple Mills capacity report in May, the government is fully supportive of a thriving and competitive international rail passenger service market and welcomes the prospect of new entrants, which offers the potential for greater choice and lower fares for passengers, stimulating further shift to rail for international journeys.

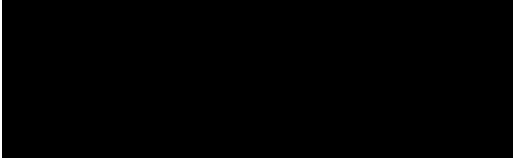
The Department for Transport is continuing work to further support the growth of international passenger rail services market and address the barriers to entry. I will continue to engage with ORR colleagues as this work progresses.

On the specific point raised regarding the lease between the Department and Eurostar, I note the ORR's assessment and confirm that the Department has no further information to add. However, I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the Department's wider policy interest in supporting the growth of the sector and addressing the current barriers to this, with depot capacity being an important element of this. I therefore appreciate the continued regular engagement with ORR officials as this process progresses.

With respect to the four applications, currently under consideration, submitted by Evolyn, VTE Holdings Limited (VTE), Gemini Trains and Trenitalia France, as these are being considered through the statutory process by ORR the Department will not be making specific representations on these.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's anything further I can assist with.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms Andrea Pearson OBE

Deputy Director for International Rail and Rail Freight.
Department for Transport