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22 September 2025

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited's formal response to request for further clarification raised by West Midlands Train Limited pertinent to Network Rail's representations for the 32nd Supplemental Agreement

Dear Alice,

In response to the letter West Midlands Trains sent to ORR on 15 August 2025 with a request for clarification on several points following Network Rail's representation letter sent to ORR, please find attached a response from Network Rail on the points raised by West Midlands Trains further to a meeting both parties held on 17 September 2025.

Coventry to Birmingham New Street 1 SX right

Both parties have agreed that the 1 additional SX service required by West Midlands Trains to implement the December 2025 timetable is currently sitting within the wrong row of the Schedule 5 tables. The additional right is currently being used to cover a single Birmingham International – Birmingham New Street service, and both parties have agreed to amend row 3.31 of EJ03 in Schedule 5 of the Track Access Contract to reflect the correct level of operation.

London Euston to Milton Keynes Central 1 SO right

Further to additional analysis carried out by Network Rail, it has been identified that 1 SO service SK99 runs at 01:39. The definitions of Schedule 5 stipulate that "day means any period of 24 hours beginning at 02:00 and ending immediately before the next succeeding 02:00 hours, and any reference in this schedule to any names day of the week shall be to such period commencing on that named day". Therefore, both parties have agreed to amend row 5.4 of EJ05 in Schedule 5 of the Track Access Contract to reflect the correct level of operation of this service.

Milton Keynes to Northampton 2 SX right

Both parties have agreed that the 3rd additional right in question is not required to support the implementation of the December 2025 timetable, and this will be relinquished separately under Part J of the Network Code. The 2nd right which West Midlands Trains have advised is required to support the implementation of the timetable will see a new line of entry created in Schedule 5 of the Track Access Contract to create a new line of entry whilst the service is used to cover a Milton Keynes Central – Birmingham New Street route. This will involve removing 1 S service from 3.28 of Schedule 5 to ensure the full quantum is covered.

London Euston to Northampton 1 SU right

Both parties agree that the additional service is not required, and will be relinquished separately under Part J of the Network Code.

Great Malvern to Worcester Shrub Hill 2 SO rights

Network Rail is currently content and supportive of one additional Saturday right to ensure the implementation of the timetable. Our analysis did highlight the 2nd SO right was stopping short of Worcester Shrub Hill at Worcester Foregate Street. Both West Midlands Trains and Network Rail have identified that the Worcester area requires a separate supplemental agreement to tidy up the current structure of the Schedule 5 tables. Network Rail will be supportive at this stage of the right in its current format, with the caveat that both parties will progress a new supplemental to amend the current structure of Worcester in Schedule 5 to ensure correct alignment of rights within the tables.

Birmingham Snow Hill to Worcester Shrub Hill 2 SU rights

Both West Midlands Trains and Network Rail have identified that the Worcester area requires a separate supplemental agreement to tidy up the current structure of the Schedule 5 tables. Network Rail will be supportive at this stage of the uplift in rights in its current format, with the caveat that both parties will progress a new supplemental to amend the current structure of Worcester in Schedule 5 to ensure correct alignment of rights within the tables.

Birmingham Snow Hill to Worcester Foregate Street reduction of 2 SU rights

Both parties agree the removal of one SU right is only required, and the quantum of rights will be reduced in a separate supplemental agreement.

Worcester Foregate Street to Birmingham Snow Hill reduction of 4 SU rights

Both parties agree the removal of two SU rights is only required, and the quantum of rights will be reduced in a separate supplemental agreement.

Yours Sincerely,

Akaash Bhandari
Franchise & Access Support Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd