

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



12 September 2025

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

Josh Watkins
Network Development and Track Access
Manager
The Chiltern Railway Company Limited
Banbury Integrated Control Centre
Higham Way
Banbury, Oxon, OX16 4RN

Dear Hardeep and Josh,

Approval of the 17th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and The Chiltern Railway Company Limited (trading as Chiltern Railways) dated 7 October 2022.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 11 September 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 amend Chiltern Railway's track access contract to convert an existing empty coaching stock movement to a passenger service with contingent rights. The service will run on weekdays from Kings Sutton to Bicester North. This will then link with a service from Bicester North to London Marylebone which has firm rights. This change will commence at the Principal Change Date in December 2025 and will cease at the end of the contract.



Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments were received from Great Western Railway and CrossCountry who had no concerns. Transport Focus were happy to accept.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some minor drafting issues, and these were resolved when the agreement was formally submitted.

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