

Claire Brooks

Access Executive

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2 October 2025

Erin Flanagan
Customer Manager LNW Route
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Broad Street
Birmingham B1 2ND

Robbie Gilbody
Contracts and Compliance Manager
TransPennine Trains Limited
8th Floor, Bridgewater House
60 Whitworth Street
Manchester, M1 6LT

Dear Erin and Robbie,

Approval of the 78th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and TransPennine Trains Limited (trading as Transpennine Express) dated 3 March 2016.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 1 October 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 grant TransPennine Express with the rights necessary to facilitate the Transpennine Route Upgrade remodelling works, which will result in platform closures at Huddersfield station for 15 months until January 2027. Changes are being made to keep services moving during these works. These changes include the removal of current firm rights between Leeds and Huddersfield, the inclusion of new contingent rights on the same route, and the amendment of the existing calling patterns.

The extensions within this application are included within the development of the East Coast Main Line Event Steering Group timetable and its review processes due to the interactions at Leeds station. In line with current policy, changes will commence 4 October 2025 for one timetable period only. Subsequent rollover applications will be submitted until the works conclude in January 2027.



Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments were received from Great Western Railway, Northern and Transport Focus who raised no concerns.

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