

Claire Brooks

Access Executive

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19 February 2026

Lysette Rowley
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Broad Street
Birmingham, B1 2ND

Kate Oldroyd
Track Access Manager
Northern Trains Limited
George Stephenson House
Toft Green
York, YO1 6JT

Dear Lysette and Kate,

Approval of the 72nd supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Northern Trains Limited (Northern) dated 3 March 2016.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 18 February 2026 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 Northern additional access rights between Leeds and Huddersfield via Dewsbury commencing on the Principal Change Date in 2026. These rights are not new services but are the rights that were used by Transpennine Trains and were relinquished in their 78th supplemental agreement. Transpennine Trains will operate this service on a contingent basis until the Principal Change Date in 2026, this will be a reduced service due to the Transpennine Route upgrade work at Huddersfield.

The current stopping service is run by both Northern and Transpennine Trains. From the Principal Change Date in 2026 and specifically January 2027 when the Transpennine



Route upgrade work is completed, Northern will run the services alone. The rights will cease at Principal Change Date in 2027.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation from 2 December 2025 to 6 January 2026. Comments were received from CrossCountry, GWR and West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Transport Focus who all accepted the proposal.

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