

Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



2 February 2026

Erin Flanagan
Customer Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Birmingham
B1 2ND

Robbie Gilbody
Contracts and Compliance Manager
Transpennine Trains Ltd
8th Floor, Bridgewater House
58-60 Whitworth Street
Manchester
M1 6LT

Dear Erin and Robbie

Approval of the 90th supplemental agreement (SA) to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Transpennine Trains Limited (trading as Transpennine Express (TPE)) dated 3 March 2016

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 2 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 correct an error that was introduced into the Track Access Contract by the 83rd SA that became effective on the Principal Change Date (PCD) in December 2025. The version of the 83rd SA that was authorised by Network Rail and which was subsequently put out to industry consultation was correct, but then prior to informal submission to ORR, the quantum of rights for some services between Saltburn and Manchester Airport services was amended so that it was incorrect. In order to make the contract correct, a new SA was required. It should be noted that these services have been running on the network since PCD 2025 without the necessary rights being in TPE's contract.

The amendments will apply from the date of ORR's approval and will expire on the Subsidiary Change Date (SCD) in May 2026.

Industry consultation

As the correct quantum of rights was included in the industry consultation for the 83rd SA that was carried out in November, and no queries or concerns were raised about these services, we advised Network Rail that it did not need to be repeated for this application.



ORR review

We asked Network Rail to confirm that this service uplift aligns with the Manchester Task Force outputs, since it gives the impression of a significant increase of services operating through the Castlefield Corridor, albeit the services are already operating. Network Rail confirmed that these outputs were considered and the application was signed off by its Operating Strategy Director for North West & Central and its Route Director North West, which satisfied our query.

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)).

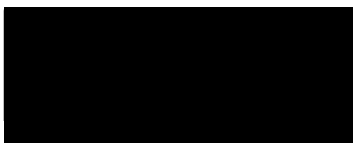
Conformed copy of the track access agreement

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 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



Louise Beilby