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11 August 2026

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5 Endeavour Square
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Joanna Kinnish
Concession Contract Manager
GTS Rail Operations Limited
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Dear Russell and Joanna

Approval of the 7th supplemental agreement to the track access contract (Passenger Services) between Rail for London (Infrastructure) Limited (RfL) and GTS Rail Operations Limited (GTSR)

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 8 August 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 GTSR with the access rights required to operate its May 2027 timetable. This entails an increase in peak weekday service frequency between Paddington and Whitechapel in the Crossrail Central Operating Section (CCOS). The frequency will increase from 24 trains per hour (tph) 07:45hrs-09:15hrs and 16:45hrs-18:15hrs, to 28 tph 07:30hrs-09:30hrs and 16:30hrs-18:30hrs.

The changes will be made by:

- Diverting the current 2tph Gidea Park to London Liverpool Street passenger services to Paddington at Pudding Mill Lane Junction;
- Operating the current nine empty coaching stock (ECS) moves as eastbound back-workings in passenger service starting from Paddington;

- Operating an additional four passenger trains on the Network Rail Anglia Route;
- A small increase in ECS moves to and from Old Oak Common Depot; and
- Operating an additional 2tph between Paddington and Abbey Wood

The additional rights required on Network Rail infrastructure are being sought in a separate application. The amendments in this 7th supplemental agreement will be effective from the Subsidiary Change Date (SCD) in May 2027 and will expire on the expiry date or earlier termination of GTSR's track access contract with RfL.

Industry consultation

RfL undertook the usual industry consultation for one month from 22 May. Transport Focus responded to advise that it had no objections or queries.

London TravelWatch responded that it supported the application provided Network Rail had no objection but that there were no other queries relating to this specific application. Network Rail was included in the industry consultation but did not respond. There is currently another application for access ongoing between GTSR and Network Rail for the operator to run its SCD 2027 services on Network Rail's infrastructure which has not yet been determined. RfL has stated that the lack of a response from another infrastructure manager should not be an obstruction to approval of this application by ORR because it is specific to the CCOS network and it is supported by RfL.

ORR review

Our review raised no operational or performance issues. We raised some queries with GTSR relating to the detrainment of services at Paddington and the operation of services at Abbey Wood station which were answered to our satisfaction.

Regarding the outstanding query from London TravelWatch, we do not consider that it is necessary for Network Rail to explicitly state that it supports this application in order for us to approve it. It relates to infrastructure that is not managed by Network Rail, and its approval is not dependent on the separate application that is ongoing between GTSR and Network Rail. I have copied London TravelWatch into this letter for information.

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, Rail for London (Infrastructure) Limited 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

Copies of the approval notice and the redacted agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the redacted agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Louise Beilby.

Louise Beilby