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Senior Access Executive

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14 August 2026



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

Charlie Green
Track Access Contract Manager
WM Trains Limited
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

Dear Hardeep and Charlie,

Approval of the 53rd supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and WM Trains Limited (trading as West Midlands Trains (WMT)) dated 19 May 2019

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 12 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 ensure that WMT's track access contract contains the correct firm and contingent rights to cover the services it needs to operate its current timetable. This involves: the use and amendment of some existing rights to cover any shortfalls in the same geographical area; the replacement of some incorrect or redundant rights with the correct ones; and the removal of some that are no longer required.

There are no new rights being added to the track access contract by this supplemental agreement. Any new rights for the coming timetable change in December have been or will be covered by other supplemental agreements.

The amendments will be effective from the date of ORR's approval.



Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation for four weeks from 12 June 2026. Comments in support or stating no objections were received from CrossCountry, Transport Focus and Northern Trains.

London TravelWatch requested clarification that there would be no reduction in services as a result of this supplemental agreement, and Network Rail confirmed there would not. London TravelWatch confirmed that this closed its query.

Great Western Railway requested confirmation that the application had been approved by Network Rail's Sale of Access Rights panel, which Network Rail provided. Great Western Railway was satisfied with this response.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some drafting issues which would have meant that some amendments from a previous supplemental agreement would have been cancelled by this one; this was corrected prior to our inviting formal submission.

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

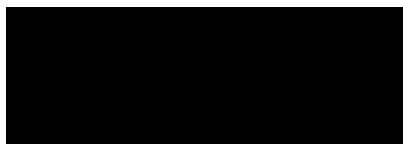
Under clause 18.2.4 of the track access contract, Network Rail is required to produce a conformed copy, within 28 days of any amendment being made, and send copies to ORR and the Train Operator. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

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



Louise Beilby