

Martin Jones
Deputy Director, Access & International

17 September 2026



Edmund Butcher
Head of Business Development
HS1 Limited
5th Floor, Kings Place,
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Philip Whittingham
Project Lead
VTE OPCO Limited
50A Charlotte Street
London
W1T 2NS

Dear Edmund and Philip,

Modification of dates in Paragraph 1.3 and 1.6: HS1 Limited and VTE OpCo Limited

We have today issued a notice of modification to extend the dates by which VTE OpCO Limited (VTE) must enter into a rolling stock contract and commence operation. This has been done pursuant to Paragraph 1.7 of Clause 5.2 of the framework track access agreement (FTAA) between HS1 Limited (trading as London St. Pancras Highspeed, "LSPH") and VTE OpCO Limited (VTE) (jointly the parties) dated 18 August 2026 by amending the dates in Paragraph 1.3(a)(iii) and 1.6(c) of Clause 5.2 of the FTAA. This is following a request made to us by the parties on 15 September 2026. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

The parties' application

The parties explained that the reason for requesting these changes was the pending Regulation 32 Appeal by Eurostar International Limited initiated on 14 August 2026. The parties therefore asked for the date in the contract by which VTE must enter into a rolling stock contract to be extended and also requested a change to the date at which the contract will lapse if VTE has not commenced operation of services. The application does not affect the date by which VTE can begin services, or the length of the FTAA.

Consultation

There is not a requirement for an industry consultation under Paragraph 1.7 of Clause 5.2 but, as required, we consulted the parties. The parties were content to extend the dates by which VTE must enter into a rolling stock contract and commence operation.

ORR review and conclusions

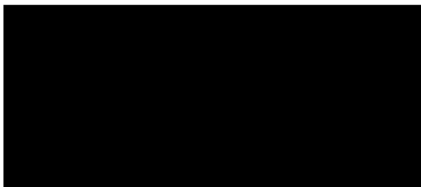
We have considered the request and representations made by the parties.

We accept that LSPH and VTE have good reason to want to extend the dates in Paragraph 1.3(a)(iii) and 1.6(c) of Clause 5.2, and that this wait will not unduly block capacity that could otherwise be used.

In considering the request and in reaching our decision, we have had to weigh and strike the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act. We have concluded that issuing such a notice is appropriate and consistent with our section 4 duties, in particular those relating to:

- protect the interests of users of rail services;
- promote the use of the railway network in Great Britain for the carriage of passengers and goods, and the development of the railway network, to the greatest extent that ORR considers economically practicable;
- contribute to the development of an integrated system of transport of passengers and goods;
- promote competition in the provision of railway services; and
- enable persons providing railway service to plan the future of their businesses with a reasonable degree of assurance.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Martin Jones.

Martin Jones