Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive
Telephone: [redacted]
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14 October 2026

Lysette Rowley
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Birmingham
B1 2ND

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

Dear Lysette and Kate

Approval of the 76th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Northern Trains Limited (trading as Northern) dated 3 March 2016

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 13 October 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 extend Northern's track access contract for an additional year from its current expiry date of the Principal Change Date (PCD) in December 2027 to PCD 2028.

Northern is also relinquishing a number of unused access rights which it does not expect to exercise at any point in the near future.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation for four weeks from 24 August 2026. Comments in support or raising no objection were received from CrossCountry, Transport Focus, Great Western Railway and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns, nor any drafting issues.

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