

Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive

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20 October 2026

Sid Ali
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddle Dock
London
SE1 0NS

Susan Ellis
Track Access and Contracts Manager
SE Trains Ltd
4 More, London Riverside
London
SE1 2AU

Dear Sid and Susan

Approval of the 130th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and SE Trains Limited (trading as Southeastern) dated 6 December 2007

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 19 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 grant Southeastern the rights necessary to operate its proposed December 2026 timetable. This entails several new or additional access rights to Southeastern's track access contract, and the amendment or removal of some existing rights, in service groups HU01, HU02, HU03, HU04, HU05, and HU07.

The timetable will bring overall service patterns back to their 2019 levels, introduce a new Sunday service pattern on the Bromley North branch and between Woolwich and Dartford, and increase connectivity with London Overground services at New Cross and St Johns and with Elizabeth Line services at Abbey Wood.

The rights are to commence on the Principal Change Date (PCD) in December 2026 and will expire on the Expiry Date or earlier termination of Southeastern's track access contract.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation for four weeks from 25 August 2026. Comments in support or stating no objection were received from Great Western Railway and Transport Focus.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We noted that it entails a large number of changes to the track access contract, but that there are some performance improvement initiatives in the timetable, as well as mitigations in areas where the modelling suggests that there may be performance 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

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Louise Beilby.

Louise Beilby