Louise Beilby
Senior Access Executive
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OFFICE OF RAIL AND ROAD

2 November 2026

Adebisi Akinyanju
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddle Dock
London
EC4V 3DS

Dean Cowie
Track Access Manager
South Western Railway Ltd
30 Stamford Street
London
SE1 9LQ

Dear Adebisi and Dean

Approval of the 48th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and South Western Railway Limited (SWR) dated 9 April 2019

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 30 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 SWR the rights necessary to operate its proposed December 2026 timetable.

The amendments have been set out in two tables – one to reflect the service proposal from the Principal Change Date (PCD) in December 2026 to PCD 2027, and one to reflect PCD 2027 onwards.

This supplemental agreement entails amendments to firm and contingent rights in services groups HY01, HY03, HY04, HY05, HY07 and HY08. There are some additional services and some service reductions, and there are also amendments to the calling patterns in some instances.

The amendments will be effective from PCD 2026.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation for 1 month from 24 August. Comments in support or raising no objection were received from Great Western Railway, Transport Focus and CrossCountry.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns.

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We noted that pending or submitted Open Access applications from Grand Central and Alliance Rail were cited on the Form P but that Network Rail had not specified that these were competing for capacity with this application. Given the minor scale of changes and the fact that neither of these operators commented during industry consultation, we do not have any concerns about this.

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