David Reed
Senior Executive, Access & Licensing

28 October 2026

Avni Depala
Franchise & Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddledock
London
EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
Thameslink Southern Great Northern Limited
1st Floor
24 Monument Place
London EC3R 8AJ

Dear Avni and Darren,

Approval of the 74th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Thameslink Southern Great Northern Limited (trading as GTR)

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 22 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 GTR the rights necessary to operate its proposed December 2026 timetable. This includes a recast of services between St Pancras International and Luton, and an additional two Great Northern Metro trains per hour between Moorgate and Hertford North / Gordon Hill with amendments to other services to accommodate. Additionally, some rights between Bedford and Luton, in place temporarily under General Approval, will be added permanently to the contract.

The majority of the rights are to commence on the Principal Change Date in December 2026 and will expire on the Expiry Date or earlier termination of GTR's track access contract. The amendments to rights between Bedford and Luton linked to the GTR 76th General Approval will be effective from this approval.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments were received from Great Western Railway and Transport Focus, neither of whom raised any issues with the proposals.

Head Office: 25 Cabot Square, London E14 4QZ T: 020 7282 2000 www.orr.gov.uk

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some drafting issues and these were resolved when the agreement was formally submitted.

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



David Reed