David Reed
Senior Executive, Access & Licensing

29 October 2026

Rebecca Mordey
Franchise & Access Manager
1 Puddledock
London
EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
1st Floor, 24 Monument Place
London
EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren

Approval of the 75th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Thameslink Southern Great Northern Limited (trading as GTR) dated 2 March 2016

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. The changes include the reinstatement to pre-COVID service levels on Gatwick Express services, increasing from 2 to 4 trains per hour. The agreement also extends some existing contingent rights from December 2026 to May 2027.

The firm rights included in the contract will expire on the Expiry Date or earlier termination of GTR's track access contract.

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. GWR and Transport Focus advised that they had no comments or objections. No other comments were received.

ORR review

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

We noted Network Rail's position on the continuation of the contingent rights in this contract beyond SCD 2027 due to the potentially competing application from Grand Central for services between Brighton and Newcastle. In light of this, our usual policy

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of a strong presumption of the continuation of existing rights will not apply to these rights beyond this date.

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