

John Sears  
Passenger Focus  
By Email

Network Rail  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
One Eversholt Street  
London  
NW1 2DN

24 June 2015

Dear John,

### **Section 18 Application: Great North Western Railway (GNWR)**

Thank you for your response dated 17th April 2015 to the consultation on GNWR's proposed Section 18 track access application. For clarity, this Section 18 application is for a reduced number of rights contained in the previous applications made by Alliance on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.

Thank you for confirming your position remains unchanged with regards to this new application. It is very positive to hear that Passenger Focus favours competition and the benefits it brings to passengers. There is now empirical evidence<sup>1</sup> to show that, where open access competition exists (e.g. York to London), fares have increased at a much lower rate than at stations where no competition exists. GNWR expects that by introducing competitive services on the WCML a similar effect will be achieved.

There is no intention that the introduction of GNWR services would provide any dis-benefit to any existing group of passenger. Indeed GNWR believes that the introduction of these services could provide nothing but benefits by providing new destinations with direct services to London and providing much needed competition on an existing route.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gilliland", written in a cursive style.

Rachel Gilliland

**Head of Commercial Freight**

<sup>1</sup> Rail's Second Chance – Centre for Policy Studies