

Rob Holder to Track Access Managers , Goulding, Katherine

ORR Consultation: New General Approval for Freight Track Access Rights.

Good afternoon Katherine,

Thank you for consulting us over the above.

The principle is supported.

There has long been a practice supported by access right that freight services avoid the passenger peak where possible. For this reason it is suggested that the proposed four-hour minimum window for flex be widened to five or similar in order to protect the morning and evening peak passenger service (where capacity is at a premium and growth is already driving infrastructure need). Alternatively an exclusion from the General Approval mechanism for those freights potentially active in the passenger peaks might be considered.

The exclusion of rights over Congested Infrastructure is supported.

Subject to successful industry consultation the provision for amending access rights to meet the WTT should be expanded as far as is possible for General Approval. Consultation provides an opportunity for aspirations of all parties to be considered. These aspirations are not present in current WTTs. In addition a recent revision to path may have impacted upon performance and this aspect ought to be capable of having a bearing.

Major engineering work often applies at public holidays. Revised freight firm right at this time may affect the ability to plan engineering work at this time or affect the allocation of paths over infrastructure with reduced capability or available capacity.

An ability to alter timing load or train length without consultation may alter rights fundamentally without other industry parties having recourse for review. Vehicle Change supplies this facility for train length but may not for timing load.

We are worried that our franchise timetable may not be capable of being implemented as stock and infrastructure comes on stream for us if freight rights are provided too light a rein. This proposal appears subject to the comments made to reduce the risk we face.

I should be very grateful if you would help arrange the above to be considered please.

Many thanks.

Rob

Robert Holder | Network Access Manager | Great Western Railway
1 Milford Street | Swindon | SN1 1HL



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