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Company Secretary
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
1 Eversholt Street
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ORR consent under network licence condition 5

On 3 August 2017 Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) asked us to consent, under condition 5.1 of its network licence, to its proposed involvement in rolling stock arrangements under the Wessex Alliance. The alliance is between Network Rail and First MTR South Western Trains (First MTR), who was awarded the franchise in relation to the Wessex Route, starting 20 August 2017.

On 28 March 2012 we consented to an alliance arrangement between Network Rail and the incumbent operator, Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) for the purposes of condition 5.1. On 25 September 2013 we extended that consent to the end of the SSWT franchise.

Network Rail has confirmed that the new alliance with First MTR is fundamentally the same as the old alliance with SSWT. On that basis and the other information that Network Rail has provided to us, we consent to Network Rail entering into the arrangement it described, for the purposes of condition 5.1 of its network licence.

This consent is valid from 20 August 2017 until the termination of the South Western franchise agreement between First MTR and the Department for Transport, or such longer period as we may specify in a notice given to Network Rail.

We may modify or revoke this consent at any time if we issue a new consent of a similar type, or if it appears to us requisite or expedient to do so, having regard to our statutory duties including under section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.

Rob Plaskitt

