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18 May 2018

Jayne Tipton
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Rob Holder
Network Access Manager
First Greater Western Limited
Milford House
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Dear Jayne and Rob

Approval of the 26th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and First Greater Western Limited (GWR)

1. We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 18 May 2018 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. The purpose of this letter is to set out the reasons for our decision.

2. The purpose of this agreement is to suspend the Schedule 8 performance regime for the Windsor Branch line services between 0200 hours on Saturday 19 May 2018 and 0159 hours on Sunday 20 May 2018. Large numbers of passengers are expected during this period due to the Royal Wedding and the parties consider that the suspension of the performance regime will better serve passenger interests.

3. A consultation was not necessary as no other party is impacted by Schedule 8 changes.

4. We asked the parties to provide further justification regarding the need for this change. This information was provided to our satisfaction. Our review did not identify any operational, economic or performance concerns and we are satisfied that approval is in accordance with our statutory duties under Section 4 of the Railways Act 1993.

5. In considering the agreement and in reaching our decision, we have had to weigh and strike the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act. We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement is consistent with our section 4 duties, 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)).

6. 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.

9. Electronic copies of this letter and approval notice will be sent to Keith Merritt at Department for Transport and Peter Craig at Network Rail. Copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register and on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rodgers', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jonathan Rodgers