



# Introduction

October 2017

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## Track access guidance modules

1. The set of modules in the *Track Access Guidance* series is designed to lay out the criteria and procedures we expect to follow in processing applications for track access contracts.
2. These modules replace our *Criteria and procedures for the approval of track access contracts* (C&Ps) dated 23 December 2011. The modules are being brought in during a transitional period. When this process is complete, our C&Ps will be withdrawn and we will be in a better position to update individual modules when we need to.
3. Each module is subject to updates from time to time. Please check our website<sup>1</sup> for the latest edition of each module. We will normally consult on major changes to our guidance, as appropriate. We will not necessarily conduct a full industry consultation on every update, particularly where changes are necessary to reflect changes in legislation, minor clarifications and amendments, or in response to recommendations from others that have already been consulted on.
4. We cannot guarantee that our guidance will be fully up-to-date at any one point in time. Therefore, please feel free to let us know if you think any aspects of this guidance can be improved or need updating. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. There are also links to other areas of other track access work such as policy documents and decisions. If you cannot find the guidance you need, please contact us<sup>2</sup>.

## ORR's role

5. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) makes sure the passenger and freight train operating companies have fair access to the rail network – and that best use is made of capacity. If a railway operator wants to access the national railway network, they have to apply to us for a track access agreement with Network Rail. This set of modules explains how to go about that and other things you will need to know. In due

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<sup>1</sup> <http://orr.gov.uk/what-and-how-we-regulate/track-access/guidance>

<sup>2</sup> Email [track.access@orr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:track.access@orr.gsi.gov.uk)

course it will also capture dealing with infrastructure managers other than Network Rail. ORR's other responsibilities are explained on our website<sup>3</sup>.

## Structure

6. The modules are:

- **Introduction**
- **Overview**
  - The regulation of access
  - The use of capacity
  - The duration of access contracts
  - The expression of access rights
  - International passenger services
  - The not primarily abstractive test
  - Track access options
- **How to apply**
  - Making an application
  - Industry code of practice for consultations
- **Model track access contracts**
  - Interim Note..
  - Model passenger contracts
  - Model freight operator contracts
  - Model freight customer contracts
- **Charging and performance**
  - Charging and performance
- **Other networks**
  - Facility access (*in development*)
  - ORR Code of Practice for the application of Sections 16A to I of the Railways Act 1993
  - Connection contracts
- **Appeals**
  - Network Code appeals
  - Appeals for access to facilities and services

7. Please note that there are some common abbreviations used throughout these modules. These include:

- Network Rail *for* Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.
- ORR *for* Office and Rail and Road.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://orr.gov.uk/about-orr>