

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



18 April 2024

Rebecca Mordey
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddledock
London EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
Govia Thameslink Railway Ltd
1st Floor
24 Monument Place
London EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren,

Approval of the 60th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) and Govia Thameslink Railway Limited dated 16 March 2016.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 18 April 2024 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is extend Govia Thameslink Railway's Track Access Contract from SCD 2024 to PCD 2026. No alterations to service groups except for the below:

ET07 Southern Coastway. The East Coastway rights will remain with no amendments. The West Coastway has had a timetable recast and new rights will expire PCD 2026. New tables 2.1 and 4.1 are included.

ET08 Southern Outer. The London Victoria to Southampton Central service is now removed and replaced with London Victoria to Portsmouth Harbour service. Rights will expire PCD 2026. New tables 2.1 and 4.1 are included.

ET05 GN Outer and TL ECML. These rights held in tables 2.1 and 2.2 will now expire PCD 2024 in line with the East Coast Mainline Policy.

ET10 Southern West London Line. Rights extending past Watford to Hemel Hempstead are not included in this supplemental and may form a separate submission for SCD 24.

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Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. Comments were received from GB Railfreight regarding the East Coast Mainline extension. Network Rail confirmed that all rights, firm and contingent, are due to expire PCD 2024 in line with the East Coast Mainline Policy and will not impact future timetabling.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns. We identified some minor drafting issues, and these were resolved when the agreement was formally submitted.

Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; 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)).

Conformed copy of the track access agreement

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.

Public register and administration

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

C Brooks