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Head of Freight Policy and Relationship Management
Network Rail
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27 June 2017

Dear Rachel and Jonathan,

Industry Consultation: GNWR access rights to operate between London and Blackpool commencing from the Subsidiary Timetable change in May 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this proposal for additional GNWR services on the West Coast Mainline (WCML).

TransPennine Express (TPE) notes that the application is not formally supported by Network Rail (NR) and that from a capacity perspective the NR "SoAR panel did not comment on capacity or performance and will not until Network Rail has completed its analysis". TPE would need to fully understand the outputs of the Network Rail capacity and performance analysis that proves that there is the availability of capacity to meet this application prior to any acceptance of this proposal. TPE needs visibility that NR has conclusively assessed deliverability regarding the specific rights sought. Our primary interface with the proposed services would be between the Preston Fylde

Junction to Euxton Junction section of the WCML and it is the interaction between TPE, other operators and GNWR services that is our primary concern.

TPE would also like to further understand the proposed availability of capacity under degraded or restricted operation and the application of 'decision criteria' for restrictions of use;

TPE look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience to advise the appropriate way to progress the aforementioned points, and any further information you may require from TPE in order to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hassall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Hassall
Head of Commercial Contracts
TransPennine Express