

Lanita Masi
Track Access and Network Change Manager
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Dear Lanita,

Alliance Rail Holdings (Alliance) Section 17 and Section 18 Applications: Great North Western Railway (GNWR).

Thank you for your response dated 13 September to consultation on the Alliance track access applications.

Alliance received a significant number of responses to its recent consultation for WCML access rights, including your own. This letter addresses the specific points you made. We have now written to all consultation respondents in a similar manner.

At the industry stakeholder meeting held in York on 18 August, and in the written responses that followed, a number of people felt it was difficult to understand the reasons for Alliance's applications being split, with one to be made under Section 18 of the Railways Act and one under Section 17. In view of those comments and Alliance's further work with Network Rail we have decided that the formal submission to the ORR will be made as one Section 17 application. This means that there is no longer any interdependence between applications and that issues raised separately during consultation have been consolidated into a single list.

Timetable


We note your comments regarding the need for a timetable. Following the meeting in August detailed timings were provided in support of the proposed applications. Network Rail advised that the information was also available in the TPS system.

Performance issues

The timetable that has been developed and distributed is to prove that capacity exists in the December 2011 timetable. The paths developed have been fitted around the existing timetable and are not Alliance's ideal paths. The capacity we have identified can, we believe, be bettered. The West Coast Event Steering Group (WCESG) will put in place a project to optimise the available capacity for operators in timetable changes commencing in December 2013.

Both Alliance and Network Rail are of the view that performance should be assessed following the output of the WCESG.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hanks
Head of Development