

Chris Dellard,
Arriva Trains Wales Limited
St. Mary's House
47 Penarth Road
Cardiff
CF10 5DJ

6 December 2011

Dear Chris,

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

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.

I note your comments regarding the need for a validated timetable. Following the meeting in August an indicative timetable relating to the applications was provided. Please note that Alliance expects to improve on this timetable during the course of any recast under the auspices of the relevant Event Steering Group(s).

Alliance welcomes your acknowledgment that our proposals will generate new business for the rail industry.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hanks
Head of Development