

Samuel Fox
Head of Licensing and Network Code



Michael Chu
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Network Rail
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12 December 2025

Dear Michael,

Network Rail's network statement, 2027

1. I am writing to conclude ORR's review of your 2027 network statement, as required of us under *The Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016* (as amended).
2. Network Rail's network statement contains important information for other infrastructure managers and operators (particularly freight and aspirant operators). We reviewed the provisional version you consulted upon and shared with us in August 2025. Our comments were based on the importance of information being refreshed so that it is clear and up-to-date, to facilitate industry in planning their businesses.
3. We provided substantive comments on the clarity of text relating to interoperability legislation (Chapter 1) and requested the congested infrastructure information was updated (Chapter 4). We also noted that the timetabling dates for the 2027 timetable year needed updating (Annex 2). In addition to these comments, we flagged where clarifications were needed or signposting could be improved alongside some relatively minor edits.
4. We welcome the updates on congested infrastructure and timetabling dates that have been reflected in the version of the network statement published in November 2025. You have said that you will take account of our comments on interoperability legislation in the next version of your network statement. We will look out for updates to this information to ensure it is explained that one of the main purposes of interoperability is to remove barriers to trade so that market forces can deliver efficiencies.
5. You stated in your network statement that the arrangements set out in your network statement will continue until the Railways Bill has received Royal Assent, which would likely have a material impact on some aspects of your network statement. We expect you to make relevant updates to your network statement in sufficient time for the future stand up of Great British Railways.



6. Once again, we appreciate your positive engagement in producing this publication and our thanks also go to Assad Parvez and Rebecca Hall, in dealing with our queries.

7. In line with our commitment to transparency, we will place a copy of this letter in the [Network statements](#) section of our website.

Yours sincerely

Samuel Fox