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Dear Mrs Gibbins

Review of ORR's Criteria and Procedures for the Approval of Track Access Contracts

SPT welcomes the opportunity to comment on this review of track access contracts.

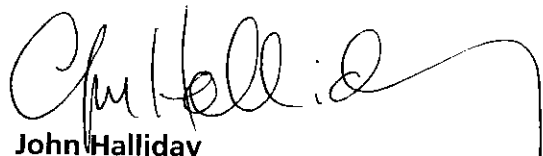
Overall, SPT is content with the approach being proposed by ORR and sees no need to comment in detail.

SPT has only one minor concern which it wishes to raise with you. SPT welcomes the proposal to extend the scope of general approvals to include minor service changes. Under this proposal, it is envisaged that Network Rail will carry out a consultation with interested parties prior to submission. Currently, SPT receives and comments on all changes affecting services in its area of interest as ORR ensure a wide consultation is carried out. SPT's experience of Network Rail is more "hit and miss" particularly in relation to Network Change where SPT are not a body named within the Network Change section of the Network Code which must receive notification.

SPT as the strategic transport body for its area, potential funder of services and as a promoter of major rail schemes (Glasgow Airport Rail Link - GARL) on behalf of Transport Scotland would expect to be consulted on any proposed changes in its area. SPT would hope that ORR, in deciding on the way forward with regard to whether to enshrine the consultation process in the Network Code or rely on a code of practice, will take on board SPT's concerns in this respect.

SPT has no objection to this reply being made public in the normal manner.

Yours sincerely



John Halliday

Assistant Chief Executive, Transport & Strategy

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