



Health & Safety Executive
HM Railway Inspectorate

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Your file reference:

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Dear Michael

MODEL CLAUSES FOR TRACK ACCESS AGREEMENTS

You wrote to Marie Power on 25 July about the Regulator's provisional conclusions on model clauses for track access agreements. As you may know, Marie has left the Inspectorate to take a career break and it falls to me to respond to your letter. My apologies for missing your deadline.

The main points of interest to us were in paragraphs 4.3 - 4.6, which propose an obligation on Railtrack to deliver enhancements to the network for which it has been funded or has committed funding. All this seems eminently sensible and can only be helpful in health and safety terms.

Possibly of more interest to us will be the precise outputs which are specified in 'local output statements' mentioned in paragraph 4.6 and how they are arrived at. For instance, given that examples of outputs in that paragraph include track geometry, line speed and network enhancements, it may be in our interests to be involved in some of the discussions leading up to agreements of local output statements - to ensure that proposed outputs take account of good practice, Group Standards, ALARP etc. It might also be an opportunity to ensure that opportune improvements which could only be achieved at marginal cost (like those that were overlooked in the SRP) are not missed.

I hope this is helpful. Apologies, once again, for lateness.

Yours

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