

Jonathan Cooper  
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26<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Jonathan,

**New Passenger Track Access Agreement: Alliance Rail Services from Blackpool North to London Euston**

Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment on this New Track Access application via the email which was sent by Craig Tomlin on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Improving public transport connectivity and making travel easier are key objectives of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). Therefore, these proposals to run 6 return services from Blackpool North to London Euston from Monday to Friday, 5 on Saturday and 4 return workings on a Sunday are received with interest. We note that the proposals do not include calls at any stations in the TfGM area, namely Wigan North Western.

TfGM has concerns over how the initiation of these services may affect the performance and punctuality of existing services on the West Coast Mainline and in particular current trains to and from Manchester Piccadilly and Anglo-Scottish services between London Euston and Glasgow/Edinburgh and future trains operated by Northern between Manchester Airport and Barrow/Windermere via Wigan North Western which will become established in May 2018. We also have concerns about how these additional proposed trains may impact operations of local services in the Preston hub area and in the light of Virgin Trains proposals to run 3 additional services on the Blackpool North-London Euston route from May 2018.

During the next few years it is likely that London Euston will be redeveloped as a hub for HS2 operations and it is important to understand what the implications will be for operation of Long Distance High Speed services during this period, including the potential that some services may need to be postponed, amended or re-routed.

Considering the evidence which I have outlined above, Transport for Greater Manchester therefore supports and endorses these Track Access Amendments on

the proviso that they will not negatively impact existing connectivity and the performance and reliability of existing train services to/from Manchester Piccadilly and through Wigan North Western both in the present day and during the HS2 construction period.

Yours sincerely,



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