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Our Ref: RFSPEC 16/23/2

14 December 2012

Dear Mr Walmsley

The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Porterbrook Class 455 - 2020 accessibility deadline

Regulation 45 of the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011¹ (RIR 2011) makes it unlawful for a passenger rail vehicle to be used in service on the trans-European rail system in the UK after 31 December 2019 unless it complies with the current or future versions of the Technical Specification for Interoperability - Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM TSI) (and/or defined domestic accessibility standards²) except to the extent that:

- a. a derogation from part of the PRM TSI has been granted under Regulation 14 of RIR 2011;
- b. a determination that part of the PRM TSI does not apply has been made under Regulation 13(8) of RIR 2011; or
- c. a dispensation that part of the PRM TSI does not apply has been granted under Regulation 46 of RIR 2011.

This is a dispensation (effective from the date of this letter) made under Regulation 46(4) of the RIR 2011, granting that the vehicles listed in Annex A, collectively known as Porterbrook Class 455, need not comply after 31 December 2019 with those parts of the PRM TSI listed in Annex B. This follows consultation with DPTAC³.

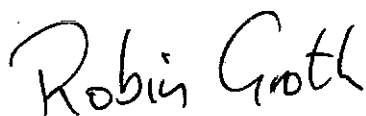
¹ SI 3066/2011

² The Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 or Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulations 2010

³ The Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee

For the avoidance of doubt, a separate derogation or determination made under point a) or b) above would be required for any vehicle listed in Annex A that undergoes an upgrade or renewal that requires an authorisation under RIR 2011 after this dispensation. I have copied this dispensation to the ORR for their information.

Yours sincerely,



Robin Groth
signed by the authority of the Secretary of State

Annex A

Units	Vehicles		
455 701 to 455 042 inclusive and 455 750	77727 to 77812 inclusive	62783 to 62825 inclusive	71526 to 71567 inclusive
455 847 to 455 874 inclusive	77617 to 77726 inclusive	62755 to 62782 inclusive	71683 to 71710 inclusive
455 901 to 455 920 inclusive	77813 to 77852 inclusive	62826 to 62845 inclusive	71714 to 71733 inclusive

Annex B

4.2.2.2.1 para 1	Height of seatback handhold
4.2.2.3 para 11	Companion seating for wheelchair user
4.2.2.4.2.1 para 1	Door sensitive edges
4.2.2.4.2.1 para 11 & 12	Door alert tones
4.2.2.4.2.2 para 1	Timing of door control illumination
4.2.2.5	Illumination of step/floor threshold
4.2.2.8.1 para 5 & 6	Squashed text on PIS
4.2.2.8.2.1 para 1	Signage
4.2.2.8.3 paras 1	Lack of external bodyside PIS displays
4.2.2.8.3 paras 16	Volume of announcements
4.2.2.12.1	Platform/train gap & step