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Our Ref: RNO 6/18/2

25 June 2020

[Redacted]
Porterbrook Leasing Company Limited
Ivatt House
7 The Point
Pinnacle Way
Pride Park
Derby DE24 8ZS

Dear [Redacted]

The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Class 156 Northern Trains Limited - 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 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, which form the sub-fleet of trains known as Class 156, need not comply after 31 December 2019 with those parts of the PRM TSI 2008 listed in Annex B. This follows consultation with DPTAC³.

This letter replaces the previous dispensations granted on 14 November 2019 and 11 December 2019.

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 is granted.

I have copied this dispensation to the ORR for their information.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Hotchkiss

signed by the authority of the Secretary of State

Annex A

Unit Number	Vehicle Number	Vehicle Number
156420	52420	57420
156421	52421	57421
156423	52423	57423
156424	52424	57424
156425	52425	57425
156426	52426	57426
156427	52427	57427
156428	52428	57428
156429	52429	57429
156440	52440	57440
156441	52441	57441
156452	52452	57452
156455	52455	57455
156459	52459	57459
156460	52460	57460
156461	52461	57461
156464	52464	57464
156466	52466	57466

Annex B

Clause	Description
4.2.2.2.2.1 (para 6)	Height of priority seat cushion
4.2.2.4.2.1 (para 2)	Width of passenger doorway
4.2.2.4.2.1 last para	Height of door button controls
4.2.2.4.1 (para 4)	Arrangement of open/close buttons
4.2.2.5	Illumination of step/floor threshold
4.2.2.8.3 (para 1)	External bodyside destination/route displays
4.2.2.8.3 (para 16)	Audio sound quality compliance to RASTI
4.2.2.10 (para 4)	Handrail clearance
4.2.2.12.1	Platform/train gap & step
4.2.2.4.2 (para 2)	Width of wheelchair accessible doorway
4.2.2.7 para 3	Clearway to wheelchair space