



Department  
for Transport

XXXXX  
Chief Operating Officer  
Transport for Wales Rail Limited  
3 Llys Cadwyn  
Pontypridd  
CF37 4TH

From the Minister of State  
**Chris Heaton-Harris MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: XXXXX  
E-Mail: XXXXX@dft.gov.uk

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: TfWRL/10/2021

7 December 2021

Dear XXXXX,

### **The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Class 153**

Regulation 45 of the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011<sup>1</sup> (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) set out in the Annex to Decision 2008/164/EC of the European Commission of 21 December 2007, or any amended version of it, or Commission regulation 1300/2014 of the European Commission of 18 November 2014 which replaced it, or National Technical Specification Notices on Persons of Reduced Mobility that replaced Commission Regulation 1300/2014 from 1 January 2021, or any variation of the NTSN or any NTSN which replaces it (and/or defined domestic accessibility standards<sup>2</sup>) except to the extent that:

- a. a derogation from part of the PRM TSI or NTSN was granted under regulation 14 before 31 December 2020, or an exemption from part of it has been granted under Regulations 14 and 14A of RIR 2011;
- b. a determination that part of the PRM TSI or NTSN does not apply has been made under Regulation 13(8) of RIR 2011; or
- c. a dispensation that part of the PRM TSI or NTSN does not apply has been granted under Regulation 46 of RIR 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> SI 3066/2011

<sup>2</sup> 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

**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 trains known as Class 153, need not comply after 31 December 2019 with those parts of the NTSN listed in Annex B. This follows consultation with DPTAC<sup>3</sup>.**

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Chris Heaton-Harris MP**  
signed by the authority of the Secretary of State

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<sup>3</sup> The Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee

## Annex A

| <b>Units</b> |
|--------------|
| 153303       |
| 153312       |
| 153327       |
| 153353       |
| 153362       |

## Annex B

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>4.2.2.1.1 para 2</b>     | Height of seatback handholds          |
| <b>4.2.2.1.2.1 para 7</b>   | Height of priority seat cushions      |
| <b>4.2.2.3.1 para 5</b>     | Door button arrangement               |
| <b>4.2.2.3.2. para 1</b>    | External door width (No.2 End only)   |
| <b>4.2.2.3.2. paras 12</b>  | Audible warnings on door controls     |
| <b>4.2.2.7.3 para 1</b>     | Bodyside visual passenger information |
| <b>4.2.2.11.2 paras 2,5</b> | Width of external stepboard           |
| <b>7.3.2.6</b>              | Platform gap/step                     |
| <b>5.3.2.9. para 1</b>      | Wheelchair ramp maximum slope angle   |