



Department
for Transport

XXXXXXXXXX
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From the Minister for Rail
**Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
CBE**

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12 December 2025

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Class 230 unit 230001

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 1 January 2020 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 the National Technical Specification Notice on Persons of Reduced Mobility that replaced Commission Regulation 1300/2014 from 1 January 2021, or any variation of that NTSN or any NTSN which replaces it (and/or defined domestic accessibility standards²) except to the extent that:

- a) a derogation from part of the PRM TSI or relevant NTSN was granted under regulation 14 RIR 2011 before 31 December 2020, or an exemption from part of it has been granted since that date under regulations 14 and 14A of RIR 2011;

¹ SI 3066/2011

² These domestic accessibility standards include 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

- 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 such that part of the PRM TSI or NTSN 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 Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011, granting that the parts of the Accessibility NTSN (ACC NTSN) listed in Annex A do not apply to the vehicles listed in Annex B, which form the train known as Class 230 unit 230001.

This follows consultation with the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), and is subject to compliance with the following conditions:

- a. The dispensation applies to operation of the vehicles by GWR;
- b. Information on non-compliant features of the vehicles and alternative travel options is to be made readily available to passengers to assist with informed journey planning;
- c. GWR are to assist customers with reduced mobility where and when the vehicles are in operation;
- d. This dispensation expires at 02:00 on 1 January 2031;
- e. GWR is to undertake by 31 December 2030 a review of the dispensation to determine if the dispensation remains necessary after that date, which shall be submitted to the Department.

For the avoidance of doubt, a separate derogation or exemption made under regulations 14 or 14A RIR 2011 or separate determination made under regulation 13(8) RIR 2011 would be required for any vehicle listed in Annex B 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,



**The Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL**

Annex A

Unit Number	Vehicle Numbers		
230001	300001	300201	300101

Annex B

ACC-NTSN	Summary
4.2.2.3.2 para 8(d)	Door closing signal when door is closed locally by passenger or crew
4.2.2.3.2 para 15	Height of exterior door controls
7.3.2.6	Step position for vehicle access and egress