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Dear

**Declaration of congested infrastructure: Castlefield Junction to Manchester Piccadilly East Junction Inclusive**

In accordance with the Railways (Access, Management and licensing of railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016, Network Rail is declaring the infrastructure between Castlefield Jn and Manchester Piccadilly East Jn that contains Deansgate Station, Manchester Oxford Road Station and Manchester Piccadilly Station platforms 13 & 14 as congested infrastructure with effect from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

This declaration is being made under regulation 26 (2) because, following consideration of access requests received this year; Network Rail considers that this element of the infrastructure is likely to become congested during the December 2019 timetable period.

This declaration does not mean that all new requests for access on the designated infrastructure will be automatically rejected, because the route is not equally busy at all times of the day or week.

We are now preparing a capacity analysis report in accordance with the regulations, to be published by 8th September 2019. At present we do not intend to apply priority criteria or a scarcity charge to this infrastructure as permitted under the regulations; we believe that the current Network Code processes will suffice.

Yours sincerely

**Capacity Planning Director  
Network Rail**