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To whom it may concern,

Declaration of Congested Infrastructure: Between Northallerton Longlands Jn and Newcastle King Edward Bridge South via the East Coast Mainline

In accordance with the Railways (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2016, Network Rail is declaring the infrastructure between Northallerton Longlands Jn and Newcastle King Edward Bridge South via the East Coast Mainline as Congested Infrastructure with effect from **14 December 2025**.

Analysis undertaken to date indicates that Congestion is most likely to occur between the weekday hours of 06:00 and 21:00.

This declaration is being made under Regulation 26(2) because, during the preparation of the Working Timetable for the December 2025 timetable, Network Rail considers that this element of the railway infrastructure is likely to become congested during that 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 15 June 2026. At present we do not intend to apply priority criteria, or a scarcity change to this infrastructure as permitted under the Regulations; we believe that the current Network Code processes will suffice.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Rowley
Capacity Planning Director