

DATE: 10th April 2024

REF:CVLNC013

Email: [cvltrackaccess@amey.co.uk](mailto:cvltrackaccess@amey.co.uk)

DB Cargo (UK) Ltd  
Freightliner Heavy Haul Ltd  
Freightliner Ltd  
GB Railfreight Ltd  
Network Rail  
Office of Rail and Road (ORR)  
Railadventure UK Ltd  
Transport for Wales (TfW)  
Transport for Wales Rail Ltd  
Vintage Trains Ltd  
Welsh Ministers

Dear colleague,

**Proposed G1 Network Change:** Closure of Hirwaun Branch

**Proposed G1 Short Term Network Change under the Core Valley Lines (CVL)**

**Network Code: Hirwaun Branch Temporarily Out of Use (ELR: VON, 22m 37ch to 27m 15ch)**

On the 31 May 2018, Network Rail established a G1 Short Term Network Change in relation to the Hirwaun Branch, taking this line temporarily out of use. This was established under the Network Change reference: STNC/G1/2018/WALES/060. That Short-Term Network Change was for two years and expired on the 31 May 2020.

Following divestment of the CVL Network to Amey Keolis Infrastructure / Seilwaith Amey Keolis Limited ("AKIL"), a further short-term Network Change was established (as NC1) on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 by AKIL, which expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and by Seilwaith Amey Cymru / Amey Infrastructure Wales Limited ("AIW"), under reference CVL/NC07 between 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

AIW, as the current Infrastructure Manager for the CVL network, intends to progress with a further Short-Term Network Change, from the expiry of the established Short-Term Network Change and until 31 May 2026. This will be on the same basis as the previous established Short-Term Network Changes.

This Short-Term Network Change notice is issued in accordance with Condition G1.1 of the CVL Network Code and constitutes a formal proposal for a Short-Term Network Change under that Condition.

AIW wishes to implement the Short-Term Network Change described above and is required under Condition G1 to give notice of its proposal to the parties shown on the distribution list. Condition G2 allows all affected train operators to consider the scheme and bring to AIW's attention any matters that concern them regarding the change. Train Operators may also assess the impact of the proposed change on their business and inform AIW of the direct costs and benefits of implementing the change are likely to be (if any).

This Short-Term Network Change notice outlines AIW's proposal to temporarily secure the Hirwaun Branch Out-of-Use [ELR: VON, 22m 37ch (Aberdare Ground Frame) to 27m 15ch (End of line)]. A detailed specification of the scheme is set out in Appendix A and includes a plan showing the parts of the network and associated railway assets affected. AIW is proposing this change as there is no current operational requirement for the Hirwaun Branch due to the closure of Tower Colliery in June 2017.

In accordance with Condition G1.2 (d), AIW is seeking comments from you to establish if you are content for the change to be implemented. We invite you to consider the proposed scheme and forward any comments to us by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. If a formal response is not received by this date, it will be deemed that you accept the proposal without compensation.

Please respond using the standard forms; (b), (c), (d) or (e) as appropriate, all of which can be found here: <https://tfwrail.wales/about-us/core-valley-lines-infrastructure-manager>

Please send all responses to [CVLTrackAccess@amey.co.uk](mailto:CVLTrackAccess@amey.co.uk)

Respondents should clearly indicate if they consider that all or part of their response is "sensitive information" as defined in Part A of the Network Code.

Please let me know if you require any further details to enable you to respond formally to this notice. I look forward to receiving your response to enable the progression of this proposal.

If you are no longer the appropriate contact within your organisation to receive this consultation, please advise so that I may update my records.

Yours faithfully,

Gary



**S E I L W A I T H**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE**

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Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, CF37 5UT

## Appendix A

### Short Term Network Change details

This Short-Term Network Change proposal shall become effective at the expiry of the established Short-Term Network Change (CVL/NC07).

The duration of the Short-Term Network Change will be 2 years.

The timescale in which the change could reasonably be reversed if so requested is 6 months.

### Reasons for proposed change

There is no current operational requirement for the Hirwaun Branch due to the closure of Tower Colliery in June 2017. This proposal is to temporarily secure the Hirwaun Branch (ELR: VON) out of use, from 22m 37ch (Aberdare Ground Frame) to 27m 15ch (End of Line), until there is a requirement for traffic on the branch. This will provide a cost saving to the rail industry due to the avoidance of ongoing maintenance activities. With 6 months' notice the branch could be reinstated.

### Specification of works

In accordance with the previously established Short Term Network Changes (STNC/G1/2018/WALES/060, NC1 and CVLNC/07), a temporary stop-block was fitted at the heel area of Aberdare Ground Frame at 22m 37ch (indicated by the red line on the Sectional Appendix extract below), and a buffer-stop was fitted on top of the rails and chained in position.

This new Short-Term Network Change seeks to retain the amendments made to the infrastructure under the previously established Short-Term Network Changes (STNC/G1/2018/WALES/060 NC1 and CVLNC/07). For clarity no changes are proposed to be made to the infrastructure as part of this Short-Term Network Change proposal.

LOR	Seq.	Line of Route Description	ELR			Route	Last Updated	
GW834	001	Hirwaun to Abercynon	VON	ALK	ABD	Wales - TFW CVL	22/07/2023	
Location		Mileage M Ch	Running lines & speed restrictions				Signalling & Remarks	
Hirwaun pond (End of line)		27 15					OT(S) Core Valleys Lines RA6 Integrated Control Centre TAM Workstation (VA)	
Network Rail Boundary		26 62					OT(S) see Local instructions	
Hirwaun LC (TMO)		26 02					Down: Start of GSM-R area at 26m 62ch Up: End of GSM-R area at 26m 62ch	
Robertstown LC (TMO)		23 10 * 23 08					GSM-R	
Aberdare GF		22 37					Gates operated by Guard	
<b>ABERDARE / ABERDAR</b>		22 34					Barriers operated by Guard	
		22 30 *					AWS not provided between Hirwaun and Aberdare GF	
		22 23 *					Line Out of Use 22m 37ch to 27m 15ch - CVL/NC1	
		22 17 *					Platform 1 - 97m, (106yds) PP-A Platform 2 - 84m, (92yds)	
		21 39					TCB	
Cwmbach Sidings LC (FP) (R/G-X)		21 05 *					Axle Counter Area Non-SPT area	
Cwmbach Junction		20 78 * 20 72					Platform - 94m (102yds) Cwmbach station Permanently earthed section 22m 19ch - 21m 78ch	
<b>CWMBACH</b>								

## Industry wide business justification

1. Option	2. Brief description	3. Impact on stakeholders' business & operations	4. GRIP stage at which option discarded	5. Indicative net present cost & benefits	6. Reason for option rejection
Network Change proposal	Temporarily secure the Hirwaun Branch Out of Use for 2 years.	Cost saving to the rail industry due to the avoidance of ongoing maintenance costs.	N/A	N/A	-----
Reopen the line to traffic after Short Term Network Change expires		Ongoing maintenance costs.  Bridge renewal costs	N/A		There is no current operational requirement for the Hirwaun Branch.

## **Proposed timescales of work**

If this Short-Term Network Change is established there is no further physical work required as these were carried out under the established Short-Term Network Change (STNC/G1/2018/WALES/060, NC1 and CVLNC/07).

## **Costs and compensation**

Compensation will be paid in line with Part G of the Network Code.

## **Additional terms and conditions**

Once this Network Change has become an established Network Change (as defined in Part G of the Network Code), AIW may, if it wishes to make any modification to the terms or conditions (including as to the specification of the works to be done, their timing, the manner of their implementation, the costs to be incurred and their sharing, and the division of risk) on which the change was established, use the following variation procedure: AIW shall formally communicate the specific variation (or variations) to all parties to this notice (the original consultation notice) for consideration. The parties to the consultation shall consider and respond to the variation (or variations) in accordance with the procedures set out in Conditions G1 and G2 allowing for the changes in detail that must follow as a result of the procedure applying only to the proposed variation. It shall not be necessary for AIW to re-issue the entire Network Change notice for consultation.