



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
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Grant Shapps

Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Grant,

Thank you for consulting me about extending the current term of the interim Chair of East West Railway Company Limited (EWR Co.), Rob Brighouse, for an additional 6 months until 7 March 2021 under section 3.6 of the Government's Governance Code. I am content with this extension. When you approached me previously for an extension because of purdah and the general election, I agreed that an extension of no longer than 6 months would be acceptable. However, owing to the unforeseen circumstances resulting from the impact of the Covid pandemic, I understand why this competition cannot be concluded within the previous time frame.

I also understand that this extension will allow EWR Co. to implement changes through the recommendations made to them from the Infrastructure and Projects Authority review, including as you mention, securing final approvals for construction of the first phase of the programme.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments