

When every workstream can be valid—and the activation decision is still not stated in one place.

For readiness, testing and commissioning, handover and programme-to-operations transitions.

WHAT RGRA DOES

RGRA reviews the agreed record for one go-live, handover or transition decision and issues a source-linked File-Position Note stating what the record supports at the gate, which conditions remain attached, how residual actions are recorded, what scope is included or excluded and where accountable operational judgement begins.

WHEN THIS BECOMES A DECISION PROBLEM

Observable conditions

- Workstream evidence is complete or green, but no combined position is expressly owned for the gate.
- Items are accepted with comments or conditions that remain scattered across records.
- Residual actions have owners, but their treatment for go-live or transfer is not stated in one place.
- Delivery, T&C, handover and operations are relying on different cut-offs or versions.
- A headline such as ready, open or handed over travels more broadly than the qualified scope supports.

What changes in practice

- Leadership reconstructs the combined gate position from several packs.
- Operations inherit a status without all attached conditions.
- Residual actions can be mistaken for closed or immaterial items.
- Later review confuses readiness for use with complete acceptance or final scope.
- The next accountable decision begins from an unstable written basis.

HOW THE REVIEW WORKS

1. Fix the decision or reliance question, cut-off, audience, intended use and agreed core record set.
2. Identify source identity, authority, status, version path and relationship to later records.
3. Separate supported, qualified, superseded, derivative and contrary positions.
4. Locate the first step the agreed record no longer supports.
5. State the narrowest supportable position—or state that no single position is supportable.

The File-Position Note states

- The activation or transition question, gate, cut-off and agreed record boundary.
- What the readiness/handover record supports for the stated use.
- Conditions, comments, exclusions and residual actions that remain attached.
- Defined ownership/treatment already recorded for residual actions.
- What remains unresolved and where operational, technical or safety judgement begins.

WHERE THE REVIEW STOPS — AND WHY

Operational readiness, safety, technical acceptance and go-live judgement remain with the accountable programme and operating functions. RGRA states the written position available to them; it does not make the activation decision.

NO-DUPLICATION GATE

RGRA is commissioned only where the required source-supported position is not already expressly owned, produced and appropriately reviewed for the same decision, cut-off, audience and intended use.

FORMAT	SCOPE	RECORDS	COMMERCIAL	TARGET
Written-first	One defined question	Typically up to 20 core records	Fixed scope and fee	7–10 business days*

A PRACTICAL FIRST STEP

The internal first question is whether an accountable function already leaves this position for the same decision and use. If not, request a non-sensitive written fit check. No live confidential records are needed at that stage.

*Target begins only after written scope acceptance, material acceptance and confirmation that the agreed review route is operational.

Opening is not the same as final operating scope

A public-record Decision-Basis demonstration using official Transport for London records.

THE QUESTION

At the opening of passenger service on 24 May 2022, what did the official public record establish about the Elizabeth line's operating scope—and what did the headline “the line opened” not yet establish?

Cut-off: End of 24 May 2022 opening day; later official papers are used only to evidence the status and staged scope at that cut-off.

AGREED PUBLIC-RECORD SET

- TfL Board paper on Elizabeth line operations and further opening stages.
- Elizabeth Line Committee project-status paper dated 25 May 2022.
- Official TfL station-handover and later Bond Street opening releases.
- Official TfL descriptions of the staged service configuration.

OUTSIDE THE AGREED SET

- Internal technical files and detailed assurance evidence.
- Unpublished operational restrictions or acceptance records.
- Any judgement on whether the railway should have opened.

BOUNDED POSITION

The official public record supports that passenger service opened on 24 May 2022 on the new central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood, with nine new central stations. It did not support that Bond Street was open, that full through-running from Reading, Heathrow and Shenfield was active, or that the final operating configuration had been completed at that cut-off.

SUPPORTED BY THE AGREED RECORD	NOT ESTABLISHED BY THAT RECORD AT THE CUT-OFF
Passenger service opened on the central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood.	That every planned central station was open on 24 May 2022.
Nine new central stations were open; Bond Street remained a later opening stage.	That full end-to-end through-running across the complete route was already active.
The line initially operated in staged sections, with changes required at Paddington or Liverpool Street for some journeys.	That every remaining programme, assurance, integration or operating item was closed.

FIRST UNSUPPORTED STEP

The move from “passenger service opened” to “the full planned railway, station set and final through-service configuration were operational.”

Illustrative File-Position wording: *At 24 May 2022, official public records supported opening of the Paddington–Abbey Wood central section with nine new central stations. Bond Street and full through-running remained later stages; the opening headline therefore carried a defined scope and qualifications.*

WHAT THE EXAMPLE DEMONSTRATES

- A valid opening milestone can coexist with expressly staged scope.
- Handover, opening, station availability and final operating configuration are separate record states.
- A headline must travel with the scope and conditions attached to it.
- Later completion cannot be backdated into the original opening cut-off.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

- A readiness, safety or assurance opinion.
- That the staged opening represented a failure.
- That internal records did not provide additional detail.
- Client outcome evidence; this is a public-record method demonstration.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

[TfL Board paper - Operations and Further Opening Stages](#)
[Elizabeth Line Committee project status update](#)
[Canary Wharf station transfer to TfL](#)
[Bond Street opening announcement](#)
Official sources are hyperlinked in the digital PDF.