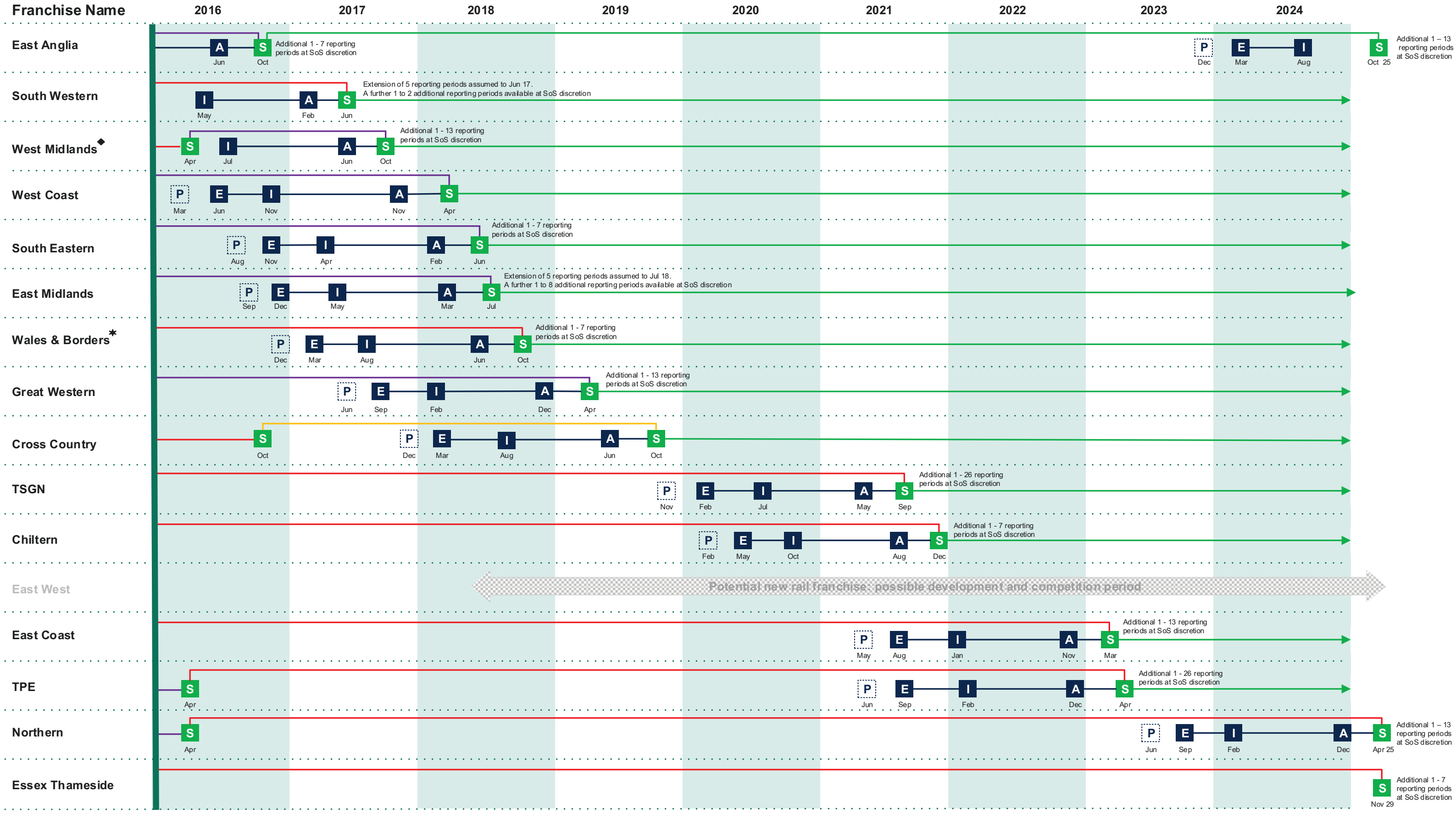


Rail Franchise Schedule

P	PQQ Passport Application Date (Deadline for non-passport holders)		Current Franchise
E	Issue of Franchise EOI		Direct Award - Contract signed
I	ITT (Invitation to Tender) Issued to Shortlisted Bidders		Direct Award - Anticipated
A	Contract Award		New Franchise
S	End of current Franchise Agreement Start of new Franchise Agreement		Key Deliverable process link



◆ - During the next franchise, the Department expects to take steps to allow for the potential of greater local control over the West Midlands local services.

* - The schedule shown reflects standard DfT franchising timings. The UK Government has agreed in principle to transfer franchising powers to the Welsh Government to lead on procuring the next Wales & Borders franchise. In anticipation of this, the Welsh Government are developing their procurement approach which is planned to start earlier than shown on this schedule.