

News Release from the Rail Delivery Group

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6,400 extra trains a week to run to more places, more often

Britain's rail companies have unveiled plans to run over 6,400 more passenger trains every week by 2021, running to more places more often, creating new opportunities and supporting jobs.

Projected timetable improvements for the next four years show that 1,283 more trains a day (6,417 a week) will run from Monday to Friday nationwide, an increase of 11 per cent, according to new analysis by the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) which represents train operators and Network Rail.

Operators are already running more than 1,350 extra trains a week compared with just four years ago. Overall, the total number of trains in the timetable has increased by 29 per cent – around 3,800 extra trains every day - in the last 20 years.

Future timetable plans show that:

- Passengers travelling on commuter routes into and within London, as well as those on high-speed England to Scotland routes, will see an increase in the frequency of trains
- Passengers using the Edinburgh to Glasgow and TransPennine routes will also see timetable improvements
- Further improvements will cover the Midlands, Wales, Kent, the West Country and the North West as the rail industry finalises the detail of new timetables
- Many of the improvements will be in place by 2019.

The timetable improvements are boosted by an investment of £11.6bn in over 5,500 new train carriages, as well as significant investment in stations, signals and tracks.

The improvements are a key benefit of the £50bn plus Railway Upgrade Plan to tackle the capacity crunch on the network and improve reliability. It includes £31.3bn of renewals and enhancement by Network Rail to the railway infrastructure between 2014 and 2019, including work on the Thameslink Programme; spending to complete the £14.8bn Crossrail project; and £7.7bn on HS2 by April 2019.

Paul Plummer, RDG Chief Executive, said:

“Rail is an ever more vital public service, enabling jobs, housing and economic growth. But there's a capacity crunch affecting the railway, with journeys having doubled in 20 years and the number of trains increasing too. That's why we're delivering billions of pounds of improvements and reversing decades of under-investment.

“The £50bn plus Railway Upgrade Plan will help ease the congestion on Britain's railway. It will break bottlenecks, untangle tracks and harness technology so that more trains can run to more places more often, creating new opportunities and supporting jobs.”

Howard Smith, TfL's Operations Director for the Elizabeth line, said:

"The Elizabeth line will transform travel across London and beyond - boosting capacity, hugely improving accessibility and supporting hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs. In order to realise the vast economic potential for the whole country, this type of investment must be maintained, including building Crossrail 2 to relieve pressure as our region's population continues to rapidly grow, thereby supporting the UK's economy."