



New signage being installed at Milton Keynes station

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London Northwestern Railway: Only catch the train if you have no other choice

London Northwestern Railway (LNR) is stepping up its messaging on essential travel and social distancing ahead of timetable changes this weekend. Major stations across the LNR network are receiving a makeover to reinforce the need for social distancing.

With some workplaces across the country beginning to reopen, the operator is urging passengers to avoid the rail network unless they have no other travel option.

To help passengers maintain social distancing, London Northwestern Railway is installing new signage at stations including markings on platforms, staircases and in ticket halls.

Additionally, a one-way system is being brought into operation at Milton Keynes station to help passengers flow through the concourse more easily.

Lawrence Bowman, customer experience director for London Northwestern Railway, said:

“I would like to thank our customers who have continued to stay away from the railways to save space for those people making truly essential journeys with no other travel option.

“Maintaining social distancing on the railway network is a real challenge because the concept goes against the entire principle of mass transit. We have had to think hard and move fast to bring in new ways of moving people within social distancing constraints.

“It is absolutely essential that our customers play their part by being kind, considerate and travelling responsibly. Only use public transport if you absolutely have to travel and have no other alternative.”

A new London Northwestern Railway timetable comes into operation from Monday 18 May. Passengers making essential journeys are advised to check their train times before travelling at www.lnr.uk/coronavirus

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to

and from London Euston.

- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 80 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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