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Rail Minister opens new accessible station facilities at Tring

A multi-million-pound transformation of Tring station in Hertfordshire is now complete, making it more accessible for passengers.

Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris MP was the guest of honour at a ceremony to mark the opening of the £5.8 million 'Access for All' upgrade, which included new lifts, ramps and new footbridge to provide step-free access to all five of Tring station's platforms for the very first time.

The investment has come directly from the Department for Transport's

'Access for All' programme, which was launched in 2006 to improve accessibility at railway stations nationwide.

London Northwestern Railway (LNR) passengers can now benefit from the improvements, which it's hoped will encourage more people in the area to travel by rail.

Mr Heaton-Harris was joined by James Dean, Network Rail's West Coast South route director, local MP Gagan Mohindra, LNR customer experience director Lawrence Bowman and local councillors and residents at a socially distanced opening ceremony on Thursday 30 July.

Chris Heaton-Harris said: "As we gradually welcome more passengers back onto trains, we are pressing ahead with our ambition to make the railway accessible for everyone who uses it. The new lifts, ramps, and footbridge at Tring are just one example of how our "Access for All" investment is delivering on that commitment, providing easier, more accessible rail journeys for passengers."

Gagan Mohindra, MP for South West Hertfordshire, said: "I am delighted the Department for Transport's "Access for All" programme budget has been used to provide step free access to all platforms at Tring station. Travelling to and from the beautiful town of Tring, one of the gems of South West Hertfordshire, has never been so easy. I hope as many people as possible take advantage of the new facilities."

James Dean said: "The new lifts, ramps and footbridge at Tring station will be a game-changer for passengers and the local community. Delivering this project has been tough, with the pandemic changing how we work and it's thanks to the hard work of our of engineers and partners that we can now have step-free access to the platforms for those who need it."

Lawrence Bowman said: "Making sure the railway is accessible for all is a key priority and I am delighted these superb new facilities will benefit our customers at Tring for many years to come. Passengers at Tring can also look forward to the introduction of brand new electric trains on the West Coast Main Line as part of our £1billion investment into the rail network."

About West Midlands Trains

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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 Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

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 148 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, East Midlands Railway 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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