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## West Midlands Railway supporting veterans this Remembrance Day

West Midlands Railway is playing its part in the upcoming Remembrance Day commemorations by offering free or discounted travel to poppy collectors, armed forces personnel and veterans.

With hundreds of volunteers expected to line the streets of Birmingham city centre on its designated Poppy Day - Tuesday 5 November - the rail operator is providing a free return journey to all authorised collectors taking part in the event. Meanwhile, veterans and members of the armed forces planning to attend the Cenotaph memorial service in London on Sunday 10 November are being offered free travel to and from the capital when wearing military uniform or on production of a Ministry of Defence ID card.

Armed forces personnel and veterans who are members of the Defence Discount Scheme can also benefit from 20% off Advance rail tickets over the Remembrance period - and all year round.

Andy Camp, commercial director at West Midlands Railway, said:

"Our armed forces past and present are rightly hailed as inspirational individuals who have done so much for our country down the ages and continue to do so today.

"Through offering free or discounted travel for collectors attending Poppy Day in Birmingham and veterans attending memorial services by train, we are able to say 'thank you' in our own small way."

For more information on Poppy Day in Birmingham click <u>here</u>.

For more on the Defence Discount Service scheme, click <u>here</u>.

## **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<u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

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 70 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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