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Marston Vale Line: Service restored between Bedford and Bletchley but disruption continues

Passengers using the Marston Vale Line between Bedford and Bletchley are being advised to check their journeys as a temporary timetable is now in operation while Network Rail continues to investigate faulty level crossings on the route.

Under the temporary timetable, which is in place until Saturday 21 March, trains are able to run the full length of the line between Bedford and Bletchley. However, while investigations are completed services will not call

at Millbrook or Lidlinton, with a replacement bus service in operation at these stations.

Network Rail is continuing to investigate the cause of a fault with three automatic level crossings in Marston, Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick. The issue prevented trains running the full length of the line between Bedford and Bletchley for 10 days between February 27 and March 7.

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

"We are pleased we are now able to run services between Bedford and Bletchley but apologise to our customers for the disruption they have experienced and the changed timetable.

"We particularly apologise to customers using Millbrook and Lidlinton stations where we have had to make the difficult decision not to stop for the next fortnight. This allows us to serve the rest of the line while safety investigations continue. Replacement buses will serve these stations until further notice.

"We are working closely with colleagues at Network Rail as they seek a solution to the ongoing issue with the level crossings on the Marston Vale Line. We are also working closely with the local rail user group to monitor the impact at Lidlinton and Millbrook."

Any passengers delayed by 15 minutes or more as a result of the issue can claim compensation via the Delay Repay scheme at www.lnr.uk/delayrepay and to check your journey, visit www.lnr.uk/plan

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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