



West Midlands Railway staff hand over uniforms to the Salvation Army

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Railway uniform recycling scheme nominated for top awards

An innovative scheme by West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway to donate old staff uniforms to charity has been nominated for two further top awards.

Following the introduction of new uniforms to more than 2,000 staff, over ten tonnes of items including shirts, trousers and coats were passed on to The Salvation Army to reuse.

Donated items with logos, such as suit jackets and trousers, were de-branded and made available by The Salvation Army Trading Company's charity shops to those who need them most. Other items were shredded and made into carpets, insulation, cushions or even the stuffing for car seats.

Andy Camp, commercial director for London Northwestern Railway and West Midlands Railway, said: "By donating old uniforms to The Salvation Army, we wanted to give something back to the communities we serve, whilst ensuring as many items as possible were recycled. The response from our staff was fantastic and this award nomination recognises our efforts in diverting over ten tonnes of unused clothing away from landfill."

Kirk Bradley, head of corporate partnerships from The Salvation Army Trading Company, said: "This partnership has been a great success which has enabled The Salvation Army to help West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway staff to responsibly recycle their excess uniforms while supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people."

The scheme has now been recognised at the **Business Culture Awards**, which celebrate forward-thinking among companies, in the "Best Corporate Responsibility Initiative" category.

The idea has also been recognised at the customer and employee-focused **Engage Awards**, in the "Best Employee Centric Strategy" and "Best Use of Innovation in Employee Engagement" categories.

The winners of both awards will be announced at separate ceremonies in London in November.

The nominations follow on from similar recognition for the uniform scheme at the Birmingham Post Business Awards earlier this month.

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 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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