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‘Travel either side’ advice for West Coast Main Line passengers travelling to and from London Euston this Christmas

Passengers travelling over the festive period are strongly urged to plan their journeys in advance as major rail upgrades mean Euston station is expected to be much busier than usual from Christmas Eve, into the New Year.

Christmas rail works affecting journeys into London Paddington and London St Pancras stations, mean more passengers are expected to travel through London Euston over the festive period.

For a smoother journey, passengers travelling to or from Euston on the West Coast Main Line, are advised to travel before Tuesday 24 December or after Thursday 2 January.

To keep passengers moving over Christmas, most engineering work on the West Coast Main Line will take place during the traditional railway closure from the end of service on Christmas Eve until the morning of Friday 27 December, when the railway reopens. However, carefully planned upgrades to help improve the reliability of journeys into London Euston will take place between Monday 23 December and Saturday 4 January:

- **Track drainage improvements near Milton Keynes** – buses will replace all trains between Milton Keynes, Northampton, and Rugby on New Year’s Day, Wednesday 1 January.
- **Track upgrades between Watford and Milton Keynes** – an amended service will be in place from Wednesday 1 January to Saturday 4 January.

Gary Walsh, director for Network Rail’s West Coast South route, said: “We understand that travelling over the festive period is important for so many people and we want to make sure everyone reaches their destination as smoothly as possible.

“On top of upgrades which will help to make the West Coast Main Line more reliable for our passengers, we’ve got major engineering work affecting other routes into London this year, which means Euston will be extremely busy. I’m urging passengers to plan their journeys in advance at www.nationalrail.co.uk and for a more comfortable journey, please consider travelling before Christmas Eve or after Thursday 2 January.”

Further north, major signalling and drainage upgrades to the freight network means changes to journeys for services travelling to, from or through Crewe between Tuesday 24 December 2024 and Friday 3 January 2025. Passengers are advised to plan their journeys in advance.

Timetables for train services over the Christmas period are now available and passengers are encouraged to check the latest travel information via National Rail Enquiries or their train operator’s website.

During the busy festive period, passengers needing assistance at London Euston station are encouraged to book Passenger Assist in advance of their travel through their train operator, or via National Rail Enquiries at **0800 0223720** or by text to **60083**.

London Northwestern Railway passengers are now benefitting from earlier boarding trials across many services in an effort to improve passengers' experience at the station.

For more information about travelling to and from London Euston station this Christmas, passengers should visit www.networkrail.co.uk/wcml

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, 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 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

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