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West Midlands Railway hailed for commitment to apprenticeships in national rankings

West Midlands Railway has been hailed for its commitment to apprenticeships in newly-published prestigious national rankings.

The operator, which runs rail services across the West Midlands, is part of the Abellio Transport Holdings Group, which has been named in the Top apprenticeship employers in Britain.

The list recognises companies for their overall commitment to employing apprentices, their creation of new apprenticeships, the diversity of their new apprentices, and the progression of their apprentices onto further apprenticeships and employment.

West Midlands Railway, along with sister company London Northwestern Railway, currently has more than 80 people completing apprenticeships in roles such as train drivers and engineering.

Jo MacPhail, HR director at West Midlands Railway, said: "Ever since we began running the West Midlands franchise in 2017 we have made clear our commitment to apprenticeships.

"Training our own people allows colleagues to gain on-the-job experience and obtain nationally-recognised qualifications to help them in their future careers.

"We are proud to be part of a company which has been named in the Top 100 employers in the country and we look forward to taking on many more apprentices in years to come."

Abellio Transport Holdings was named 39th in the rankings, which were developed by the National Apprenticeship Service in partnership with High Fliers Research, which independently assessed and compiled the leader board of top apprenticeship employers.

Peter Mucklow, from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, said: "During such a difficult year it is encouraging to see that apprenticeships continue to be critical to business performance and success.

"This list shows there are outstanding employers delivering apprenticeships across all sectors, and the Top 100 apprenticeship employer rankings rightly give recognition and thanks to those who have shown, and continue to show, huge commitment to apprenticeships."

For more information, visit www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk

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 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. 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.

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