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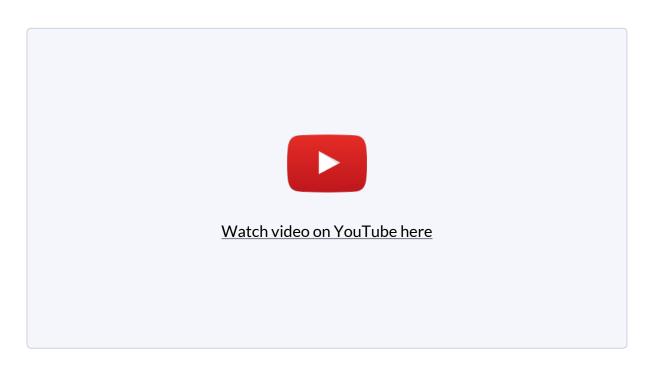
## Fare-dodger who assaulted rail staff and ran down the tracks jailed

A fare-dodger who assaulted railway staff at Northampton station and put his life in danger by running down the tracks has been jailed.

Dramatic CCTV footage shows Aleksandrs Morozevics running down the middle of the tracks shortly after racially abusing and attempting to headbutt an off-duty police officer.

Morozevics continued his barrage of abuse against emergency workers following his arrest when he spat at three officers and struck two in the face.

The 40-year-old, of Church Lane in Northampton, was jailed for 26 weeks at Northampton Magistrates' Court earlier this month following the incident, which happened on Monday 9 September.



The court heard Morozevics began swearing at a revenue officer when he was asked for a ticket and kicked and shoved at other staff members who came to help.

When confronted by an off-duty officer, he jumped onto the tracks and ran off – the trains were stopped causing delays and a cancellation.

In total, Morozevics committed 10 offences – three counts of common assault against rail staff, one count of assault on the off-duty officer, and three counts of assault on the officers in custody. He also resisted arrest and put his life in danger by trespassing on the railway.

Jonny Wiseman, head of customer experience for London Northwestern Railway, said:

"Any form of assault or intimidation towards our staff or other passengers on the railway is entirely unacceptable and we fully support the police in prosecuting people who behave in this way.

"Following the series of assaults he carried out, Morozevics' actions in trespassing on the tracks put his own life in danger and caused disruption for thousands of rail passengers.

"Incidents such as this are thankfully rare but are nonetheless extremely dangerous and hopefully the jail sentence imposed by the courts will act as a deterrent to others."

PC Stuart Long, of the British Transport Police, said:

"These were vicious and disgusting assaults on officers and staff. None were warranted, there was no provocation, and Morozevics had no other reason for his behaviour other than he's a violent person.

"We work very closely with our colleagues in the rail industry and partner police forces – at no point will dealing with this behaviour be seen as just part of the job and we will always push to ensure offenders see the full consequences."

## **About West Midlands Trains**

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- 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, Abelllio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit <a href="https://www.abellio.com">www.abellio.com</a>

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