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## London Northwestern Railway statement on public ownership

Today (Monday 28 July 2025) the Department for Transport (DfT) has confirmed that West Midlands Trains – operator of services under the West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway brands - is set to transfer to public ownership on 1 February 2026. This announcement is part of the DfT's ongoing Public Ownership Programme.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition to public ownership. Our customers can be assured this change will not impact our train services, timetables or stations. All ticket validities and conditions of carriage are

unaffected.

Ian McConnell, managing director of West Midlands Trains, said: “I am extremely proud of what we have achieved under this franchise, delivering a £1billion investment in two new train fleets and delivering significantly improved performance which has transformed rail travel for millions of customers.

“As we transition to a publicly owned railway, our focus remains on delivering an outstanding service for our passengers.”

Since the start of the West Midlands Trains franchise in 2017, more than 100 new trains have been introduced onto the network, which stretches from Liverpool to London via the West Midlands.

West Midlands Trains also led the successful public transport operation during the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, delivering millions of passenger journeys during the event.

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## About London Northwestern & West Midlands Railways

For further information on this release, email [press.office@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:press.office@wmtrains.co.uk)

London Northwestern & West Midlands Railways 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](https://westmidlandsrailway.co.uk) or [londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk](https://londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk)

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