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London Northwestern Railway: Train services to resume on Abbey Line

Rail services will resume on the Abbey Line between Watford Junction and St Albans Abbey from next month, operator London Northwestern Railway (LNR) has announced today.

The operator took the difficult decision to suspend services at the end of March due to the impact of coronavirus on traincrew availability and low passenger numbers. Rail replacement buses have been running since.

Now, with increased numbers of traincrew available and more people using

the railway, the operator has announced services will resume in the morning and evening peaks from Monday 24 August. It is hoped a fuller service will be restored by the end of the year.

Lawrence Bowman, customer experience director for LNR, said:

"I would like to thank our customers on the Abbey Line for their patience and understanding while we have been working hard to bring back their train service.

"The coronavirus had an unprecedented impact on our traincrew and we had to make hard decisions on how to use our available resources to move the maximum number of passengers.

"I am pleased we will once again see passenger trains on the Abbey Line in August and barring any unforeseen events we hope to run an even fuller service later this year."

The new timetables for the Abbey Line will be published in coming weeks.

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<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.

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