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## Passengers thanked after Liverpool signalling upgrade

Passengers are benefiting from a more reliable railway after major work to upgrade signals in Liverpool this weekend.

Signal controls for Edge Hill station have now been transferred to Network Rail's state-of-the-art rail operating centre in Manchester as part of the Great North Rail Project.

As Edge Hill station is the gateway to Lime Street, both stations were closed all weekend (November 2-3) with trains unable to run in or out of Liverpool's main transport hub.

All lines fully reopened to passengers successfully this morning (November 4).

Phil James, managing director of Network Rail's North West route, said:

"I'd like to say a big thank you to passengers who used a different train or a bus to make their journey in and out of Liverpool over the weekend.

"Edge Hill is one of the final areas within the Liverpool City Lines to be added to Manchester rail operating centre, allowing signalling in Liverpool to be managed from one place, along with other vital areas in the North West.

"This will mean more reliable journeys and fewer delays by allowing faster decision making on the railway."

Opened in 1830, Edge Hill station is the oldest passenger railway station in the world.

Moving the signalling control to Manchester rail operating centre means signallers can rapidly respond to disruption and route trains faster to minimise delays.

Liverpool Lime Street, Halton, Runcorn, Allerton, Speke and Garston were moved to the same system last year.

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## About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email [press.office@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto: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 mainline to and from London Euston.

- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit [westmidlandsrailway.co.uk](https://westmidlandsrailway.co.uk) or [londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk](https://londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk)

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, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit [www.abellio.com](https://www.abellio.com)

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