

May 2023 Timetable Update

Shared with all stakeholders

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The new timetable starts 21 May. Minor service changes are needed to deliver the service resilience and flexibility that enable the introduction of new and improved rolling fleet – specifically on the Birmingham, North Wales, and Liverpool routes.

To deliver this, on the North Wales and West Midlands routes we have added services or modified existing services to provide trains at the busiest times of day. The changes also specifically enhance the reliability of trains along the North Wales route.

In line with industry standards, weekday tickets will be available at T-12, and weekends at T-8. Changes have been developed in collaboration with our colleagues and Unions.

Train Plan Changes – 3 packages

1. North Wales Resilience

The route maintains 10 trains per weekday to and from London – 5 northbound and 5 southbound. To provide a more reliable service we introduce changes that better reflect travel patterns and demand for AWC services which we also expect to improve reliability. These are:

Weekdays:

- 04:48 Holyhead – Euston starts from Crewe, which adds resilience to busier services. Passengers from Holyhead to Chester have a 04:25 and 05:01 TfW service to Cardiff and Manchester Airport. There are alternative TfW services at 05:51 and 06:46 from Chester both with connections at Crewe into AWC services. The next direct AWC service to London is at 05:49 from Holyhead.
- 05:30 Blackpool – London Euston does not call Poulton-le-Fylde and Kirkham & Wesham. There is a 05:22 Blackpool North to Manchester Airport which calls at both stations.
- 06:49 Holyhead – Crewe extends to London Euston calling Stafford only. Arrives into London at 10:35 - which is expected to be a popular and busy service from North Wales.
- 09:45 Crewe – Holyhead will not run, there are alternative services at 09:21 and 10:21 from Crewe which have good connections at Chester of 6 and 11 minutes respectively and offer a faster end to end journey time than the current AWC service.

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- 12:02 Euston – Chester is an additional service calling at Stafford and Crewe only.

2. New Trains Introduction

The West Midlands route maintains 2 trains per hour, and a third in busiest times.

We have made minor changes to our existing train plan that allow us to incorporate new trains into the current timetable. This mitigates the need for a significant re-write, or to introduce a range of complex short-term changes.

We have added services or modified existing services to provide additional capacity at the busiest times of day on the West Midlands route.

Weekdays:

- 16:16 Euston – Edinburgh terminates at Birmingham New Street.
- 16:40 Euston – Birmingham New Street extends to Edinburgh, offering a 24-minute journey time improvement to Wolverhampton.
- Additional 17:10 Euston – Birmingham calling at Coventry and Birmingham International only. This addresses the one-hour gap in fast services to Birmingham in the pm peak (16:40 to 17:40).

Sundays:

- New 15:01 Euston – Blackpool replaces the 18:01 London Euston – Blackpool.
- 18:01 Euston – Holyhead will not have a Blackpool portion.

3. Other Changes

Saturdays:

- 16:16 Euston – Edinburgh terminates at Birmingham New Street.
- 16:40 Euston – Birmingham New Street extends to Edinburgh offering a 24-minute journey time improvement to Wolverhampton.