

East Midlands Railway: Class 153's removed from service

December 14, 2021



East Midlands Railway (EMR) has introduced Class 156 trains on the Barton-on-Humber route making its fleet fully accessible across all its routes.

The Class 153's have been removed from service on the Barton-on-Humber route from Monday 13th December.

The removal of the Class 153's from the EMR network, makes the train operator fully PRM (Persons with Reduced Mobility) compliant, meaning that passengers with reduced mobility can travel across the East Midlands routes more easily.

Following the transfer of the Barton-on-Humber route to EMR back in May 2021, the line was crewed by traincrew colleagues at TransPennine Express (TPE). From today, trains along the Barton-on-Humber route will be staffed by EMR. Over the last six months, EMR have been training Senior Conductors at Lincoln on the route, in preparation for the traincrew responsibility on the Barton-on-Humber line to be transferred over to EMR operation.

Separately, from 13th December 2021, Freightliner Drivers will assume temporary responsibility for driving trains on the route whilst EMR undertake EMR Driver training.

Will Rogers, Managing Director for EMR said: “The introduction of the Class 156 fleet and EMR traincrew onto the Barton-on-Humber route represents a positive next chapter for us.

“The removal of the Class 153’s from the Barton-on-Humber route means that as a Train Operator, all of our trains are fully accessible for our passengers.

“Since the transfer of the Barton-on-Humber route from Northern to EMR in May this year, our colleagues at TPE have been staffing our trains. Today, with the introduction of the new timetable, we are pleased to confirm that all of the trains servicing the Barton-on-Humber route will be staffed by EMR, giving our passengers the great customer experience they can expect from travelling with us.

Mike Gathercole, Chair of Barton Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership said: “It is pleasing to note all EMR services from today will now be PRM compliant.

“Our services on the Barton to Cleethorpes where solely serviced by non-compliant Class 153 and it is pleasing to see a changeover to Class 156 with PRM compliance enabling our passengers with mobility issues able to now use our services. This is a major step up for EMR and is welcomed by our partnership.”

Tom Irvin, Chairman of the Friends of the Barton Line said: “It is really pleasing to have accessible trains on our route. There is still progress to make on the stations, but this is a welcome first step.

“Many of our members in particular have requested the visual on-board customer information systems which these trains will deliver.

“We also have high hopes that today’s changes to service delivery will provide a significant improvement to the reliability of services.”

Photo credit: EMR