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The latest rail news on Thursday, 14th January 2021

Rail operators will today begin axing services to limit the burden on the taxpayer and prevent a wave of “ghost trains” during lockdown.

An article featuring in The Daily Telegraph says the operating companies will introduce timetable changes across the network following a plunge in traveller numbers after non-essential journeys were banned.

Passengers who need to use the railway are being urged to check before they travel.

Meanwhile the Scotsman says Scotland’s main train operator could run services with half the normal carriages after passenger numbers fell by 90 per cent.

A [new consultation on improving the performance on the rail network in and around Manchester](#) has been launched today.

Passengers are being presented with 3 options that feature increasing levels of change from the pre-COVID service patterns. The 3 options affect different routes, and which routes have direct services to Manchester Oxford Road and Piccadilly stations, and Manchester Airport.

The agreed option, scheduled to be introduced in May 2022, will significantly improve overall reliability while maintaining the pre-COVID travel connections for the vast majority of passengers. Some changes may mean making different choices for travel.

Knorr-Bremse will this quarter start supplying a new generation of brake pads and discs for Hitachi Intercity Class 800/801/802 trains serving UK intercity routes.

The transition to the new friction technology will see all the trains equipped with the new brake pads and discs; optimising the vehicles’ braking systems performance as well as minimising maintenance time and life-cycle costs.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Finally, and North Yorkshire Moors Railway has announced the success, and the closure of, its Crisis Appeal, which was set up to support the not-for-profit charity over the pandemic.

At its close, the appeal had raised an incredible £440,000.

General Manager Chris Price has described the generosity as staggering and that the amount will help get them back on their feet.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Rail Delivery Group