

## In The News: 15th July

July 15, 2020



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More than two million people will have access to new, direct rail services to Birmingham International and Coventry stations for the first time, as part of plans submitted to the Government.

The Birmingham Airport Connectivity rail improvement scheme, developed by Midlands Connect, will open up new, hourly direct connections to the stations for people living in and around Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, York, Darlington, Durham and Newcastle.

The project is one of seven schemes that makes up the £3.5 billion Midlands Engine Rail programme.

Click [here](#) for more details.

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Transport for the North has this morning launched the region's first smart 'flexi' season tickets in time for passengers returning to the railway and anticipated changes in travel routines due to COVID-19.

The move is part of a bigger drive to deliver a London-style, contactless payment systems across the North's outdated public transport networks.

Click [here](#) for more details.

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Trains failed to stop at stations more than a million times over the past four years, according to an article in the Mirror today.

The article says passengers watched as services they were waiting to board rushed past platforms at which they were due to stop.

The statistics have been supplied to the paper by Network Rail using Freedom of Information rules.

In response Susie Homan, of the Rail Delivery Group, said fewer than 0.3% of stops a year are not made.

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The first rail apprenticeship programme in England for level 5 and 6 is to be launched later this month.

47 apprentices from Network Rail and 6 apprentices from WSP will start their degree level Rail and Rail Systems Engineer apprenticeships at London South Bank University.

LSBU is aiming for 2,000 people to start an apprenticeship programme by 2020 as part of its strategy for supporting professional and technical learning in the community.

Click [here](#) for more details.

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Finally, and the Severn Valley Railway has received £250,000 of National Lottery support to help address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on heritage.

In a release this morning, SVR says because of the recent announcement of its reopening to the public from August 1st, and the National Lottery funding, the future is looking more positive.

*Photo credit: Steven Caws*