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Many of the newspapers continue to feature reaction to the announcement of new public rail operator, Great British Railway – in the biggest shake-up of the country’s trains since privatisation a quarter of a century ago.

The Independent looks at the powers Britain’s new rail operator will have, whilst The Times reports that thousands of “ironing board” seats will be removed from trains as part of Great British Railways plans.

Meanwhile, several of the papers feature the news that Trainline has been hammered by an investor panic over the launch of a rival state-owned ticketing website as ministers embark on the railway reforms.

The Daily Telegraph article says shares in the travel app plunged more than 23 per cent, wiping around £400 million off the value of one of Britain's brightest tech stars, despite revelations that the Government's Great British Railways website is still up to four years away from going live.

Weeks after announcing the sale of bus businesses in the US to concentrate on its home British transport market, FirstGroup has struck a deal to operate the South Western Railway and TransPennine Express until May 2023, with the potential to extend for two years.

The article features in The Times, that says the contracts with the Department for Transport are the first to be announced under a new system and will replace the franchising model.

Under the contracts, the government will retain all revenue risk and most of the costs risk, with FirstGroup saying the contracts achieved a "more appropriate" balance of risk and reward between FirstGroup and government.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Perry Barr railway station has been demolished clearing the way for the £30 million pound redevelopment.

A new purpose-built standalone station will be constructed over the next 12 months ready in time to welcome visitors to the area for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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Finally, Snowdon Mountain Railway will be welcoming visitors back as trains commence service tomorrow following the easing of restrictions in Wales.

The historic railway line first opened in 1896 and now carries on average 140,000 passengers in a normal year on the 4.7 mile journey to Snowdon's summit.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Snowdon Mountain Railway