

## In The News | 22nd December 2021 | Latest Rail News

December 22, 2021



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Wednesday, 22nd December 2021

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Christmas train travel is being badly disrupted with almost one in ten staff now off sick or isolating.

That's according to an article in the Daily Mail which says that the Rail Delivery Group has said that around one in 20 services were cancelled in the past week – up from an average of one in 40.

The paper says almost ten per cent of railway staff are off sick or isolation, up one per cent in a month, while Transport for London says around 500 of its frontline staff are currently off work due to 'COVID-related illness'.

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Plans for a city's new railway station have moved a step closer after a council approved the next stage in the development.

Essex County Council agreed Beaulieu Park station in Chelmsford would now be fully designed and planned.

If it goes ahead, it will be the first new station on the Great Eastern mainline for more than 100 years.

It is hoped the station will open in 2026 and welcome more than two million passengers.

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The minister for transport in Scotland has said that emergency support for rail services will carry on into the next year.

Emergency Measures Agreements, which temporarily vary the terms of franchise agreements, and which were extended from September to December 2021, will now be in place until February 2022.

They were set up to help rail services as the country continues to deal with the pandemic.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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Balfour Beatty has presented pupils with a sample of rock which serves as a souvenir from the age of dinosaurs.

The contractors, working on behalf of HS2 in the area, gave youngsters at Newall Green Primary School in Manchester a history lesson on the rock sample, which dates back 240 million years.

The 1.5-metre-long sample was extracted from 58 metres beneath the school's playing field. It was uncovered as part of HS2's preliminary ground investigation works.

[Click here for more details.](#)

*Photo credit: HS2*