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Transport Minister Graeme Dey says the “signs are not optimistic” that rail strikes can be averted ahead of the COP26 conference in Glasgow, according to an article on The Press and Journal.

With less than a week to go until the landmark climate conference, fears are mounting that delegates and the public will face major disruption on rail services.

The RMT rail union said “a gun is being pointed at its head” after a Wednesday deadline was set for accepting a pay offer which would avoid a strike during COP26.

Members of the union who work for ScotRail will strike during the two-week global climate conference in protest at pay and conditions, with action due to begin on November 1st.

Network Rail’s station works on Crossrail’s western section are now ‘largely complete’ Crossrail chief executive Mark Wild has said in an article on New Civil Engineer.

In the latest letter to the London Assembly updating progress on the line Wild said that works in the west of the £19.1billion line had completed, with enhanced station upgrade works progressing at Ilford and Romford.

The programme of work to upgrade Network Rail’s existing stations now stands at just under £3billion, almost £700million more than the original £2.3billion budget set in 2012.

Timetables at Hull Trains will be back to pre-pandemic levels from December as public confidence in rail travel continues to grow.

The numbers of passengers returning to rail travel has been steadily increasing in recent months, leading to renewed confidence from the operator.

In fact, optimism is so high that Hull Trains will be running 94 services from December 12th: the highest service level ever offered by the operator, beating its previous record of 92.

A plaque dedicated to Wilston Samuel Jackson, Britain’s first black train driver, has been unveiled at London King’s Cross station to mark his outstanding contribution to the rail industry

It is also hoped it might encourage more people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds to consider a career on the railway.

Polly Jackson, Wilston’s youngest daughter, said: “My father dedicated much of his life to the railway. He was never late or missed a day, and he was so proud of his work, despite the many challenges he faced. Today was a fitting tribute to his life and career.”

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Photo credit: Network Rail