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June 29, 2021



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Rail services are running as normal following a fire next to the tracks at Elephant and Castle in south London.

The article on the BBC website says one person was taken to hospital while a further five were treated at the scene.

Network Rail said engineers “from every discipline of rail infrastructure” worked overnight to complete the repairs.

Ministers are refusing to disclose how much a row over a HS2 contract has cost taxpayers after striking an out of court settlement with a spurned Spanish train manufacturer.

An article in The Daily Telegraph say Madrid-listed Talgo agreed a “mutual resolution” with the Government following a lawsuit against the state-funded line when it failed to win a £2.8 billion contract to build 54 trains.

Talgo kicked off legal proceedings in March after failing to make it through to the next round of bidding in January.

A spokesman for HS2 said: “HS2 is grateful for Talgo’s participation in the rolling stock procurement and wishes Talgo all the best with its future endeavours.”

The managing director of Edinburgh Trams has pocketed a £34,000 pay rise and an extra payment of £16,000 amid claims of a “buried bonus”.

That’s according to an article in The Scotsman that says Lea Harrison received a salary of £166,560 in 2020, a hike of more than £34,000 from the previous year. He was also paid £16,037 in “other benefits” according to accounts seen by the Evening News.

Edinburgh Trams says the £16,000 is the correction of “an administrative error”, but the Unite union has demanded a breakdown and claim it may be a concealed bonus.

An Edinburgh Trams spokesperson said no bonuses were awarded to the Executive Team, however, in line with Edinburgh Trams Limited’s new responsibilities as an Operator of the city’s tramway, the Managing Director did receive a salary increase in line with previously agreed contractual obligations.

South Western Railway (SWR) has announced a new trial of body worn cameras for its guards working out of Fratton depot, Portsmouth.

The use of cameras is hoped to reduce anti-social behaviour on SWR’s trains and at its stations, as well as act as a deterrent to assaults, threats and abuse experienced by SWR colleagues.

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Photo credit: South Western Railway