

Dear Mr Dawe

Central Trains' forthcoming timetable in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

From 11th June there will be important changes to the Central Trains' timetable affecting rail services in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The new timetable will consolidate and build upon our current improvement in operational performance, it will also support the West Midlands Rail Utilisation Strategy.

Feedback received from stakeholders after the December timetable change, including meetings with the Cotswold line Promotion Group and Members of Parliament, have helped shape the new timetable. I am pleased that we have been able to respond to this feedback in a positive way and I am confident that the new timetable will deliver a number of significant service improvements for passengers in the two counties.

Public information for the June timetable will be available in May, online at www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.centraltrains.co.uk or by telephone from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

Central Trains' June timetable changes in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

In order to improve connections in and out of First Great Western (FGW) London services:

- The 17.19 Birmingham – Great Malvern service is extended to Hereford, connecting out of the 15.52 FGW London - Worcester service.
- The 18.59 Birmingham – Hereford service is retimed to 19.19 and will connect out of the 17.52 FGW London - Worcester service.
- The 20.30 Birmingham – Hereford service is retimed to 20.52 and will connect out of the 19.18 FGW London – Great Malvern service.
- The 20.32 Hereford - Birmingham service is retimed to 19.50 to connect into the 20.34 FGW Worcester Foregate St – London service (starting at Worcester Shrub Hill at 20.45).
- The 22.25 Hereford - Birmingham service is retimed to 21.30 in order to connect into the 22.14 FGW Great Malvern – London service.

Improvements have also been made to late evening services. Currently the last train from Worcester arrives in Hereford at 21.59, from June the last train will arrive in Hereford at 22.26. The current three- hour gap in arrivals at Birmingham New St between 19.07 and 22.05 is planned to be covered with the following service pattern:

- The 18.52 departure from Hereford arrives at Birmingham New St 20.39
- The 19.50 departure from Hereford arrives at Birmingham New St 21.22
- The 21.30 departure from Hereford arrives at Birmingham New St 22.54

Most Nottingham – Hereford services will split at Birmingham New St creating a self-contained Birmingham – Hereford service. This provides important benefits for passengers. Without the constraint of running services across Birmingham at a fixed hourly slot, we can now offer:

- Improved connections at Worcester with our Hereford services and FGW London services.

- Better provision of carriages to accommodate peak capacity on services via Bromsgrove.
- Improved frequency of evening services on the Hereford Line after the peak.
- Less disruption on Saturdays, as a consequence of engineering work in the East Midlands.
- Improved punctuality as a 5 minute performance margin at New Street (Nottingham-Hereford) typically becomes a 24 minute margin, while a 3 minute margin at New Street (Hereford-Nottingham) typically becomes a 43 minute margin.
- Delays on the Birmingham – Hereford line no longer have a knock-on affect on the Birmingham – Nottingham line, and vice versa.

In order to tackle capacity issues, all Snow Hill Line services will be formed, as a minimum, of 3 carriage trains, (the current minimum formation is 2 carriages).

At Hartlebury, the withdrawn 07.33 service to Birmingham will be replaced by a service from Worcester which will call at Hartlebury at 07.30 (arriving in Birmingham at 08.27).

Gerard Burgess
Communications Manager

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