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Nigel Pennington
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29 March 2006

Dear Nigel

Removal of 22.21 Hereford-Birmingham train

I believe it is proposed that the 22.21 Hereford to Birmingham train should be removed with the June 2006 timetable. This means the last through train will be 18.52 and the last train with a change 20.32. We consider this to be a down grade in the service and hope that Central will re-assess this and leave the train in place.

The Hereford-Birmingham service has improved since the 2003/4 timetable, we now have 12 through trains as oppose to 8 and the time taken is around 1hr 26min, which also represents an improvement. The return Birmingham-Hereford service is much the same as it was with 11 through trains but the near standard pattern timetable is welcome and the times are marginally faster. However to remove the last Hereford-Birmingham train represents a significant down grading of the service.

As you know we are actually campaigning for a *later* trains than the one we have, in particular returning from Birmingham. At the moment the last Birmingham-Hereford train in 20.30. which while an improvement on the 2003 situation is not good enough. A city the size of Hereford should have access to evening events in the nearest large city by public transport. A later returning train to Birmingham is also important and we do not want to lose this 22.21. Please can you ensure that it is retained.

Yours sincerely

REBECCA ROSEFF
Secretary, Rail for Herefordshire¹

cc Rail Passenger Focus

¹ Rail for Herefordshire is a local train group set up in 1999, now with a membership of about 80. It works to improve train travel in Herefordshire and is consulted on travel and other planning issues in county by the local authority and other bodies.