



Business news

Supporting the Release Scotland partnership



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The new partnership, **Release Scotland**, was recently launched in the Scottish Parliament, with cross-party support from MSPs, and seeks to provide a one-stop shop for employers in Scotland seeking advice and help with recruiting ex-offenders.

We believe in hiring the best people, no matter what their background, and have been actively recruiting from within prisons since 2013. No one has to declare a criminal conviction on our forms, giving applicants a second chance and a fresh start to get back into work.

If you would like to learn more about our ex-offender recruitment programme, please click here:

<https://www.virgintrains.co.uk/newstart>

Virgin Trains hands over East Coast business to LNER



Virgin Trains will hand over the reins of the East Coast business to London North Eastern Railway (LNER) this weekend.

Virgin Trains will hand over the reins of the East Coast business to London North Eastern Railway (LNER) this weekend, after a demobilisation operation focussed on delivering continuity for customers.

For any stakeholder enquiries relating to LNER, please contact: peter.hess@lner.co.uk. Questions relating to Virgin Trains' West Coast business should still be directed to damien.henderson@virgintrains.co.uk.

Booking tickets through Amazon Alexa



We're the first travel company in the world to sell tickets through Amazon Alexa.

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Customers can now book advance single Virgin Trains tickets using just their voice through Alexa-enabled Amazon devices. The new functionality uses Amazon Pay and follows the introduction of the Virgin Trains skill, which allows customers to enquire about our services using Alexa. The skill is part of a host of digital innovation projects

to increase customer satisfaction before, during and after their journeys.

August and September engineering works



Network Rail will be undertaking engineering works on the West Coast Main Line for three consecutive weekends this summer.

Network Rail will be undertaking engineering works on the West Coast Main Line for three consecutive weekends this summer. Services to and from London Euston will be affected on both 18th - 19th and 25th - 27th August (bank holiday weekend) and the 1st - 2nd September.

During these weekends, our services will terminate at either Milton Keynes or Rugby and we strongly advise customers not to travel with us on these dates.

For those passengers who need to complete their journey with us, we will have ticket acceptance in place with other routes and a rail replacement service between Rugby and Kettering to connect into East Midlands Trains services.

More information can be found at <https://www.virgintrains.co.uk/spanner>.

Unveiling our summer of Pride



In May we launched our first Pride train at Birmingham New Street station, marking the start of Pride celebrations across our route.

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The #ridewithpride train boldly displays the Pride colours and highlights our passion for celebrating diversity. It will also carry customers to Pride events across the West Coast route. The train made its first journey to Birmingham Pride at the end of May,

transporting customers and our people to the celebrations, with a party atmosphere on board for everyone involved. Our staff then made their way over to the Pride parade that passes by our Victoria Square head office.

The train also recently made its way to Edinburgh to celebrate their Pride weekend and can also be seen at Pride events over the summer, including Glasgow Pride on 14th July.

