

Network Rail  
The Mailbox  
100 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham  
B1 1RT

28 January 2014

Dear stakeholder

**Watford Area Renewals Programme 2014/15**  
**Important changes to planned engineering work on the West Coast Mainline**

Since our announcement last summer of an £81m scheme at Watford to tackle the most common causes of delay at the south end of the West Coast Mainline, we have undertaken a thorough review of the project with our industry partners. As a result of intense activity, we have identified ways to rationalise the proposed scope and also deliver the essential renewals required.

Through this process we were also able to reduce the number of days that the railway will be closed at Watford Junction. This has been made possible by reducing the complexity of the track layout and revising the order of works to be carried out.

The changes mean that the continuous 16 day line closure of the West Coast Mainline planned for this August and the 9 day continuous closure planned for February 2015 are replaced by 3 x weekend and 2 x weekend closures respectively. I'm sure that these changes will be welcomed by our passengers and stakeholders but please be aware that this project will affect weekend train services:

2014

- Saturday 3 May to Monday 5 May (no change)
- Saturday 9 August to Monday 11 August (revised)
- Saturday 16 August to Monday 18 August (revised)
- Saturday 23 August to Tuesday 26 August (revised)
- Wednesday 24 December to Monday 29 December (no change)

2015

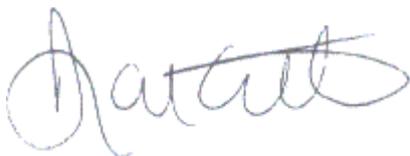
- Saturday 14 February to Monday 16 February (revised)
- Saturday 21 February to Monday 23 February (revised)
- Friday 3 April to Tuesday 7 April (no change)

During the works all signalling between Kings Langley and Bushey will be renewed and more than 15km of new track will be laid. There will be an upgrade of the overhead line equipment. Platform 10 at Watford Junction will be modified to allow longer trains to be stabled. In addition, 175km of new lineside fencing will be installed along the south end of the West Coast Main to stop farm animals getting onto the line, discouraging trespass and helping to reduce instances of cable theft.

Of course, there are alternative rail routes to London via Chiltern Railways, East Midlands Trains, East Coast and others, including London Overground and the Metropolitan Line. We are working together with our industry partners to deliver a programme of alternative travel arrangements to minimise disruption during the works. As these plans are finalised, we will provide a comprehensive programme of communication with clear information well ahead of and during the closure so that passengers can plan their journeys. We will update you as these plans progress.

More information on this programme of work on the West Coast Mainline is available at [www.networkrail.co.uk/improvements/west-coast-main-line](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/improvements/west-coast-main-line)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dyan Crowther', written in a cursive style.

**Dyan Crowther**

Route Managing Director, London North West  
Network Rail