



## **PRESS RELEASE**

09/04

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### **Passengers are being let down by late notice of bank holiday rail disruption**

TravelWatch East Midlands expressed concern that details of major reductions in Midland main line train services over the coming Bank Holiday weekend, 23-25 May, have only just been made available, making it difficult for travelers to plan or make alternative arrangements.

There will be no through trains from Nottingham, Derby or Leicester to London. (Saturday trains terminating at Kettering with a bus link to Bedford, and Sunday/Monday trains terminating at Market Harborough, with buses from Leicester and Market Harborough to Bedford.

Alan Meredith, Chair of Travelwatch East Midlands said 'Network Rail has a licence obligation to make alternative arrangements 12 weeks in advance, so that train operators can announce temporary timetables in good time. Clearly, in this case this did not happen and as a result details of the limited services were not announced by East Midlands Trains until days rather than weeks before. This seriously inconveniences passengers wishing to plan a journey or book tickets. This is not the first time that such problems have arisen and we are concerned that, Network Rail is still not meeting its statutory commitment.'

Stephen Abbott, Secretary added 'East Midlands Trains, has so far failed to give these major changes adequate publicity and we fear that casual passengers in particular, will be caught out. We understand the need for the work (to add a third track between Kettering and Wellingborough - which will lead to better journeys and less disruption in future) but more should be done to ease the pain while the work takes place.'

Alan Meredith concludes 'Passengers deserve better and many similar disruptions lie ahead with upgrading of the infrastructure over the next two years (e.g. in the Nottingham area). We call upon Network Rail & EMT to up their game and improve planning and publicity for future works.

- ENDS -

### **Notes for Editors:**

1. **TravelWatch East Midlands** is an alliance of groups representing the consumer interest across all modes of public transport. The organisation's aim is to represent the interests and concerns of public transport passengers across all forms of transport and to assist local and regional authorities' work towards an integrated and seamless quality public transport network for the East Midlands region.  
Website [www.travelwatcheastmidlands.org.uk/](http://www.travelwatcheastmidlands.org.uk/)
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