**Wednesday 3 May**

**Virgin Trains delivers extra seats on its North Wales route**

* 25% increase in seats on Virgin Trains services along North Wales coast on Sundays with 512 additional seats

Virgin Trains is strengthening services along the North Wales route (services to/from Holyhead) with double Voyager trains to increase capacity for customers, as part of its improvements to its timetable on the west coast.

From Sunday 21 May customers travelling on the 10:42 Crewe – Holyhead and 13:55 Holyhead – London Euston services on Sundays will benefit from longer trains and more seats.

In total, the increased capacity will create an additional 512 seats, which equates to an extra 256 seats on each service (230 in Standard and 26 in First Class) - an increase of 100% on each train with nearly 70% available for customers to reserve.

Virgin Trains currently operates eight services along the North Wales coast on a Sunday. The 10:42 and 13:55 services on a Sunday are the first to be strengthened with the addition of two Voyager trains and will provide an overall increase of 25% in seats along the North Wales coast on Sundays.

This is the latest improvement the train operating company has introduced, designed to enhance the experience for customers travelling on the North Wales route.

Within the last year, Virgin Trains has introduced m-tickets across all routes along the west coast, extended the booking horizon to six months and achieved the highest level of punctuality since it began running trains on the West Coast Main Line 20 years ago.

Ady Crymble, Customer Experience Manager at Virgin Trains on the west coast, said: “At Virgin Trains we always strive to offer the best possible experience for our customers. As we celebrate our twentieth year, we’ve seen a record number of journeys on our west coast services and we’re pleased to be able to offer additional capacity along our North Wales route. The latest improvements will provide our customers with more seats on our busiest services on the North Wales route and we look forward to welcoming them on-board soon.”

ENDS

**About Virgin Trains**

Stagecoach and Virgin are working in partnership to operate the East Coast and West Coast inter-city routes under the Virgin Trains brand. Together, they are on track to revolutionise rail travel across the UK.

The combined network connects some of the nation’s most iconic destinations including Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, York and London.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. Customers consistently rate Virgin Trains as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Rail Passenger Survey (NRPS) commissioned by industry watchdog, Transport Focus.

On the East Coast route, £140m is being invested to create a more personalised travel experience. We have already invested £21m to completely revamp our existing fleet and customers can now benefit from 42 additional services (22,000 extra seats) per week between Edinburgh and London. 2018 will see the introduction of completely new Azuma trains being built in the UK by Hitachi.

The West Coast route has a proud record of challenging the status quo - from introducing tilting Pendolino trains, to a pioneering automated delay repay scheme and becoming the first franchised rail operator to offer m-Tickets for all ticket types.

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