

Transport Chronology for 2024



- 2024 Jan 2 Boden Rail Engineering transfers its operating base from Nottingham Eastcroft to Colwick..
- 2024 Jan 9 South Western Railway introduces first class 701 'Arterio' EMUs (built by Bombardier Transportation at Derby) into passenger service, with Driver Controlled Operation.
- 2024 Jan 15 ASLEF announce renewed rolling programme of 1-day strikes on different TOCs, Jan 30–Feb 5. Later dates: Apr 5–8, May 7–9.
- 2024 Jan 15 *Last steam locomotive works commercially in China, class JS 2-8-2 8089 at Sandaoling opencast coal mine, leaving world's only remaining commercially working steam locomotives in Bosnia.*
- 2024 Jan 17 Rotalla plc (a publicly listed bus operating company) is purchased by Rotalla Group Ltd (a private company).
- 2024 Jan 21–2 Storm Isha causes widespread transport disruption, including pre-emptive cancellations of all ScotRail and many Irish Sea ferry and air services (4 killed across UK & Ireland). On Jan 23–4, Storm Jocelyn again causes suspension of ScotRail services.
- 2024 Jan 26 FirstGroup announces agreement for its purchase of the 2007 York Pullman Bus Co.
- 2024 Jan - Oxford Bus Co. (Go-Ahead) takes delivery of first battery-electric buses (from Wrightbus) for Oxford Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme, sponsored by Government and Oxfordshire County Council. From Mar, Stagecoach takes delivery of first 2nd-generation Alexander Dennis Enviro400EV buses for same scheme and Oxford Bus introduces electric open-toppers to its City Sightseeing fleet.
- 2024 Feb 1 Government removes routine checks on goods travelling between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 2024 Feb 5 LNER introduces '70 minute Flex' tickets, replacing (Super) Off-Peak tickets for some East Coast Main Line journeys.
- 2024 Feb 13 Lothian Buses announces its purchase of Eve Coaches of Dunbar.
- 2024 Feb 13 Yodel parcels delivery service is purchased from the Barclay family by new consortium YDLGP which includes management of Shift, owner of Tuffnells, with intention of merging businesses.
- 2024 Feb 15 TfL announces new Overground line brandings and colours which will be implemented in Nov.
- 2024 Feb 19 London Northwestern Railway resumes full train services on Bletchley–Bedford (Marston Vale) line, using refurbished class 150 DMUs.
- 2024 Feb 20 Government publishes Draft Rail Reform Bill. This will be overtaken by the general election later this year.
- 2024 Feb 22 *Intuitive Machines' lunar lander Odysseus makes first commercial soft landing on the Moon.*
- 2024 Feb 26 Government announces arrangements for Local Transport Fund allocations of funds from cancelled HS2 leg to local authorities in north and midlands, in connection with Cabinet meeting at Goole Rail Village.

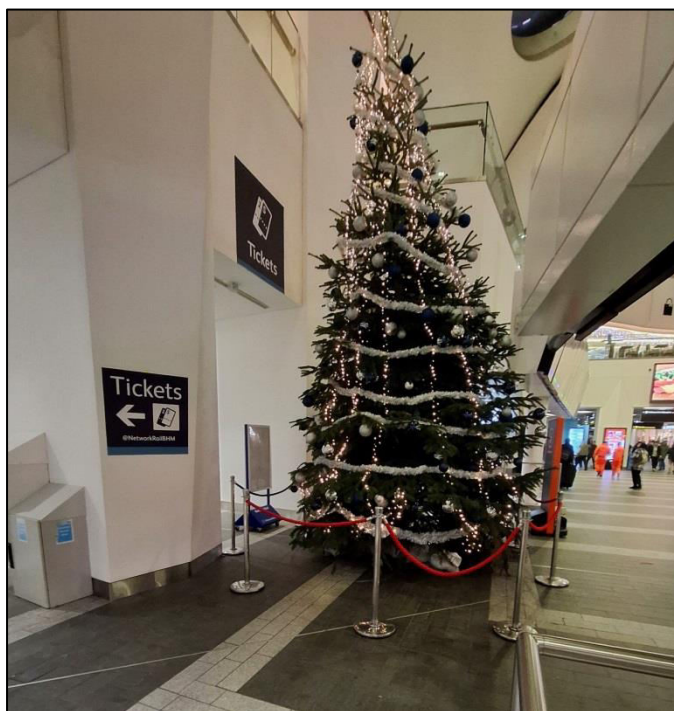
- 2024 Feb 27 Stroud District Council grants planning permission for Stroudwater Canal “missing mile” reinstatement at Eastington.
- 2024 Mar 3 Regulated rail fare increases in England are capped at 4.9%.
- 2024 Mar 6 Porterbrook agrees purchase of Long Marston Rail Innovation Centre (which it has been managing since Jun 2021) from St Modwen.
- 2024 Mar 7 Office of Rail and Road approves Grand Union Trains’ application to run a Stirling–Euston service via the West Coast Main Line, to be introduced from Jun 2025.
- 2024 Mar 8 TfL experimental Friday rail fares at off-peak rates all day for pay-as-you-go single journeys until May 31. This is found to increase Tube ridership by only 3%.
- 2024 Mar 15 (21:00)–Mar 17 (22:00) National Highways’ M25 London orbital motorway planned closure in both directions continuously for bridge works between Junctions 10 and 11 in Surrey (5 miles/8 km).
- 2024 Mar 21 Alstom rolls Aventura EMU 720 141 out of its Derby Litchurch Lane factory, its last order in hand. In Apr/May, DfT agreement is announced for further Aventura construction, 10x9-car class 345 trains for TfL Elizabeth Line.
- 2024 Mar 21 HS2 TBM *Cecilia* completes bore of Chiltern Tunnel, at 16 km (10 miles) the route’s longest.
- 2024 Mar 21 Esken Ltd (previously Stobart Group) enters administration having sold London Southend Airport, its last principal asset, to its creditor Carlyle Global Infrastructure Fund (US).
- 2024 Mar 24 Bórd na Mona runs its last peat train, at Bellair.
- 2023 Mar 24 Transport for Greater Manchester second tranche of franchised bus contracts begins operation, in Oldham, Rochdale and parts of Bury, Salford and north Manchester as part of Bee Network. In later announcement of franchisees for third tranche (Jan 2025) Metroline (ComfortDelGro) has the majority of contracts.
- 2024 Mar 26 (01:28 EDT) *Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD, carrying beltway across the Patapsco River, collapses after a support pier is struck by container ship MV Dali following loss of power, closing the port (6 road crew killed).*
- 2024 Mar 31 BT issues its last printed Phone Book.
- 2024 Apr 1 Gravesend–Tilbury ferry service suspended following expiry of operating contract with Jetstream Tours.
- 2024 Apr 4 ASLEF announces it has settled outstanding issues with London Underground and cancels impending strikes on the system.
- 2024 Apr 17 Welsh government makes preliminary announcement that it will grant local authorities discretion to vary urban road speed limits.
- 2024 Apr 18 National Grid and Energinet Viking Link HVDC submarine electricity interconnector Bicker Fen (Lincs.)–Revsing (Jutland, Denmark) formal launch (cable testing completed 25 Aug 2023).
- 2024 Apr 25 Labour Party announces its railway policy of return of passenger TOCs to public ownership under Great British Railways.
- 2024 Apr 30 Biosecurity checks on some foodstuffs etc imported from continental Europe begin.
- 2024 Apr - Royal Mail launches parcels pick up & drop off stations (automated locker suites); first at a Nisa store in Rugby (joint with Evri), with others in CV postcode district.
- 2024 May 23 Go-Ahead Group announces its purchase of coach operators Compass Royston Travel (Stockton), Esk Valley Coaches (Whitby), Fourway Coaches (Cleckheaton) and Procters Coaches (Leeming Bar), to be managed within its East Yorkshire Buses division.
- 2024 Jun 3 DB announces completion of sale of Arriva to I Squared Capital (US) (agreed 19 Oct 2023).

- 2024 Jun 13 Coach Travel Group announces its formation as parent company for Alpine Travel (Llandudno), Barnes Coaches (Swindon), Coatham Coaches (Saltburn), JH Coaches (Chester-le-Street), Johnsons Coaches (Henley-in-Arden; including Whittles), The Ready Group (Slough; including Readybus, Arena Travel, Turbostyle and L.J. Edwards of Eastbourne) and Swans Travel (Oldham).
- 2024 Jun 16 Blackpool Tramway Talbot Road extension to Blackpool North railway station (closed 1963) reopens to public.
- 2024 Jun 25 (19:15) Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. first public sailing from new Liverpool Isle of Man ferry terminal at Prince's Half-Tide Dock, leased by Isle of Man Government from Peel Ports, using sternloading HSC *Manannan*.
- 2024 Jun 30 Heathrow airport records its highest daily number of passengers, 268K.
- 2024 Jul 5 Louise Haigh appointed Secretary of State for Transport in new government (Labour). She is the youngest ever female cabinet minister at 36 but resigns Nov 28 (her predecessor, Mark Harper, lost his seat at the Jul 4 general election). Lord (Peter) Hendy of Richmond Hill is appointed Minister of State for Transport on Jul 8.
- 2024 Jul 12 Royal Mail installs its first postbox with King Charles III's cypher, a pillar box at Great Cambourne, Cambs.
- 2024 Jul 17 King's Speech in Parliament. New government (Labour) confirms its intention to establish Great British Railways and to bring passenger train operating contracts into its ownership on expiration (*Rail Reform Bill* and *Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill* – introduced Jul 18; second reading Jul 29; third reading Sep 3) and to provide for more local control of bus services (*Better Buses Bill* – introduced Sep 9).
- 2024 Jul 19 Merseytravel PTE to be renamed Transport for Liverpool City Region by 2028.
- 2024 Jul 19 CrowdStrike Falcon antivirus software update to Microsoft Windows causes worldwide IT problems; those affected include airlines and, in the UK, limited impact on railways (particularly Govia).
- 2024 Jul 26 (c.) Evri (parcels delivery service) is purchased by Apollo Global Management.
- 2024 Jul 27 Arriva closes bus depots at Aylesbury and High Wycombe; services transfer to Redline and Carousel (Go-Ahead).
- 2024 Jul 28 Midland Mainline electrification goes live Kettering–South Wigston.
- 2024 Jul 29 Chancellor of the Exchequer announces cancellation of 'Restoring our Railways' scheme as a whole and of A303 Stonehenge tunnel and A27 Arundel by-pass work but intends to complete HS2 Old Oak Common–Euston construction.
- 2024 Aug 1 Scilly Ferries (Harland & Wolff Group) announces abandonment of introduction of high speed catamaran *Atlantic Wolff* on Penzance–St Mary's route, previously scheduled (after delays) for this summer.
- 2024 Aug 15 ASLEF agrees pay settlement for 2022/23–2024/25 after direct negotiation with DfT (confirmed Sep 18 following ballot).
- 2024 Aug 15 Chief Magistrate for England & Wales rules that TOC private prosecutions for fare evasion using the Single Justice Procedure were invalid if charged under the Regulation of Railways Act 1889. On Nov 28 large numbers of Northern and TransPennine convictions are overturned.
- 2024 Aug 26 IÉ opens Kishoge station, Dublin (built 2009).
- 2024 Aug 29 Go-Ahead Group announces agreement to purchase Regency Coaches (Lewes), to be merged into Brighton & Hove's Spirit of Sussex operation.
- 2024 Sep 3 Government establishes Shadow Great British Railways (Laura Shoaf, chief executive). It is expected to be fully operational by end 2026.
- 2024 Sep 3 Stagecoach ceases involvement in Megabus operations (England and Wales).
- 2024 Sep 8 Translink opens Belfast Grand Central Station to buses (replacing Europa Centre); Oct 13 to rail traffic (replacing Great Victoria Street).

- 2024 Sep 16 Harland & Wolff Group announces it is entering administration again. In Dec a deal is reached (subject to regulatory approval) for its purchase by Navantia, the Spanish state-owned naval defence contractor.
- 2024 Sep 20 Royal Mail last uses dedicated class 325 EMU mail trains.
- 2024 Sep 30 Riviera Trains sell their excursion train passenger coaches to West Coast Railways and wind up.
- 2024 Oct 1 DfT Accessible Information Regulations requiring all local service bus and coach services to provide internal audible and visual route displays come into force for buses in service since 2019
- 2024 Oct 1 National Energy System Operator (a public corporation) begins operation of electricity and gas infrastructure under terms of Energy Act 2023, having purchased National Grid ESO from National Grid plc.
- 2024 Oct 3 Siemens Mobility officially opens its Goole rail vehicle construction facility which is building TfL's New Tube for London trains for Piccadilly Line
- 2024 Oct 8 Go-Ahead Group announces it has ordered from Wrightbus 1200 electric buses over 3 years for delivery to East Yorkshire, Pulhams, Southern Vectis, Plymouth Citybus and London.
- 2024 Oct 21 TfW Llanbrynmair accident: low-speed single line head-on collision of DMUS west of Talerddig due to braking problems (1 killed).
- 2024 Oct 21 FirstGroup announces its purchase of Anderson Travel Group, London-based coach operator.
- 2024 Oct 25 FirstGroup announces its purchase of Lakeside Group, Shropshire-based coach operator.
- 2024 Oct 28 TfL Direct Vision Standards require HGVs in London to have minimum 3-star rating or Progressive Safe System.
- 2024 Nov 5 Announcement that First Bus is partnering with FlixBus to provide coach services from Spr 2025.
- 2024 Nov 10 Go-Ahead begins operation under 15-year contract to Kent County Council of Fastrack bus network on Thameside (previously operated by Arriva). On Nov 17, Stagecoach begin operation of Fastrack in Dover.
- 2024 Nov 18 TfW introduce class 756 FLIRT multiple units (built by Stadler Rail, Switzerland) on Valley Lines as part of South Wales Metro project, the first tri-mode trains to enter passenger service in the UK.
- 2024 Nov 19 TfL announces that from May 2025 the Elizabeth Line concession will transfer to GTS Rail Operations.
- 2024 Nov 20–25 TfL carries out main implementation of new Overground line brandings and colours (announced Feb; official launch Nov 28).
- 2024 Nov 20 Go-Ahead London launches Irizar e-mobility ieTram single-deck electric buses with rapid recharge through pantograph on TfL route 358 Orpington–Crystal Palace.
- 2024 Nov 20 CalMac Arran dual-fuel ro-ro ferry MV *Glen Sannox* is handed over by Ferguson Marine (originally due 2018). Her sister MV *Glen Rosa* was launched on Apr 9.
- 2024 Nov 23–4 Storm Bert causes widespread transport disruption.
- 2024 Nov 25 Transport for Wales launches TfW Ffeibr, a wholesale full-fibre network, in the South Wales Valleys, installed as part of the South Wales Metro project. See news.tfw.wales/news/from-train-track-to-big-bandwidth-internet-tfw-ffeibr-launches
- 2024 Nov 25 Go-Ahead Group announces agreement to purchase Swanbrook Transport (Cheltenham) coach operator, to be merged into Oxford Bus Co's Pulham's operation.
- 2024 Nov 28 Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act receives royal assent. It is expected that the last TOC will be brought into public ownership by c. Oct 2027.

- 2024 Nov 29 Heidi Alexander appointed Secretary of State for Transport. Her shadow is Gareth Bacon.
- 2024 Dec 4 Secretary of State for Transport announces first TOCs to be nationalised in 2025: South Western (May), c2c (Jul) and Greater Anglia (c. Sep) on expiry of current national rail contracts.
- 2024 Dec 4 Megabus (owned by Scottish CityLink) ceases most of its coach operations in England and Wales other than cross-border services.
- 2024 Dec 4 States of Guernsey signs 15-year contract with Brittany Ferries for provision of services to the island (with option to transfer contract to its subsidiary Condor Ferries, the incumbent Channel Islands operator) wef 28 Mar 2025. Following Nov collapse of joint negotiations, Jersey is planning to sign replacement contract with DFDS.
- 2024 Dec 5 Competition & Markets Authority approves merger of Vodafone UK and Three UK 5G telecoms networks, Vodafone retaining 51% (agreed 14 Jun 2023).
- 2024 Dec 6 National Rail GSM-R radio system fault this morning causes nationwide train delays.
- 2024 Dec 7 Storm Darragh causes widespread transport disruption, particularly in Wales, including damage closing berthing facilities at Holyhead until mid-Jan 2025.
- 2024 Dec 15 Northumberland line reopens with Northern Newcastle–Ashington service.
- 2024 Dec 16 Government announces its approval of International Distribution Services (parent of Royal Mail) being taken over by EP Group (owned by Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský), which already owns 72.4% of the business (agreed by IDS board 27 May).
- 2024 Dec 18 Tyne & Wear Metro introduces first class 555 car (built by Stadler Rail, Switzerland) into passenger service, to replace original stock.
- 2024 Dec 23 *Honda and Nissan announce agreement to merge.*
- 2024 Dec 31 RMT train managers on Avanti West Coast stage first of projected long series of strikes over pay.

Matthew Searle



The “Leaning Christmas Tree” at New Street Station, Grand Central, Birmingham, December 18th, 2024

Ray Shill