



Monday 30 March 2019

Dear travel industry partner,

I write to you in order to provide a short update on how we are dealing with the impact of the current COVID-19 emergency on the Grand Central business.

As you will be aware the current restrictions on travel are having a major impact on business and the national economy. With only essential travel permitted, last week Grand Central, Hull Trains and LNER, spent time developing a coordinated joint timetable of Intercity services for the East Coast Mainline. The aim of this was to ensure a sustainable delivery of essential connectivity across all East Coast Mainline routes during the current emergency.

This was done in the expectation that all Operators would be able to secure short-term funding to support the delivery of their part of that timetable in the absence of normal passenger revenue. As I write we are still working relentlessly to secure that support from the Department for Transport (DfT) for Grand Central.

You may have heard that Hull Trains will be cancelling all services from Monday March 30th as a temporary measure in order to reduce operating costs at a time when so few passengers are able to travel. Grand Central remains committed to running the current timetable for as long as we are able.

Our focus now, as a Train Operating Company, must be on ensuring we can return to a full service when the current emergency is over, and resume our part in providing essential business travel. We believe Grand Central not only plays a vital role now but will continue to do so once the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

We truly appreciate the work you do for UK business and we hope to be in touch soon to discuss how we can continue to work together to achieve a swift return to a fully functioning economy, until then we urge you to follow Government advice and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McClean
Managing Director
Grand Central