

Edinburgh trains will be affected by planned strikes next week

ScotRail says that customers have to expect significant disruption during the latest round of strike action by RMT members of Network Rail.

The dispute does not involve ScotRail staff, but it will have a major impact on the services which ScotRail runs as the RMT planned action involves Network Rail staff in Scotland.

Network Rail RMT members are currently voting on a pay offer, which is due to close on Monday. Even if strike action is called off after that vote, it will take the rail industry at least 48 hours to restore a normal service.

The RMT union announced that its members at Network Rail will take strike action over pay this week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday all over the UK.

For ScotRail customers, this means a limited number of services will operate on a reduced number of routes.

Many of the Network Rail staff who are due to take part in the planned industrial action occupy safety-critical roles and it will not be possible for ScotRail to run the vast majority of services.

A limited strike timetable will operate on the non-strike day, Thursday, 15 December as Network Rail is unable to make all

infrastructure available on that day. Signal boxes are key pieces of Network Rail infrastructure controlling train movements. Their use is critical to ensure that the railway operates safely.

The train operator will run services on 12 routes across the central belt, Fife, and the Borders between the hours of 07.30 and 18.30.

The routes and frequency of service which will be in operation are:

- Edinburgh Waverley – Glasgow Queen Street via Falkirk High: two trains per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – Helensburgh Central: two trains per hour
- Glasgow Central – Hamilton/Larkhall: two trains per hour
- Glasgow Central – Lanark: two trains per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – Glasgow Central via Shotts: one train per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – Cowdenbeath: two trains per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – Tweedbank: two trains per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – North Berwick: one train per hour
- Edinburgh Waverley – Larbert: one train per hour
- Glasgow Queen Street – Larbert: one train per hour
- Glasgow Queen Street – Falkirk Grahamston: one train per hour
- Milngavie – Springburn: two trains per hour

The final services will depart well before 6.30pm so customers should plan ahead and ensure they know when their last train will depart.

There is greater reliance on manual signalling outside the Central Belt, and Network Rail is unable to provide passenger services on any other routes on the strike days.

The train operator has updated its retail systems to reflect the impact of strike action. Customers are also advised to visit www.scotrail.co.uk/strike for more information.

1. There will be no service except on 12 ScotRail routes across the central belt, Fife, and Borders.
2. For the routes on which will operate a service, customers should only travel if necessary and should consider alternative options where possible.

Customers who have already purchased a rail ticket can [seek a fee-free refund or claim compensation](#) through Delay Repay, up to 28 days after they were due to travel.

Alternatively, customers can use their ticket to travel the day before, or up to and including Tuesday, 20 December.

Customers are advised to check the ScotRail app or visit scotrail.co.uk for the latest information before travelling.

The RMT has also announced plans for strike action between 24-27 December, and 3-4 and 6-7 January.

David Simpson, ScotRail Service Delivery Director, said: “It’s really disappointing to see more widespread disruption across the whole Great Britain rail network as a result of the dispute between Network Rail and the RMT at a time when we need to be encouraging more people back to the railway.

“For ScotRail, it’s going to mean that we won’t be able to operate the vast majority of our services between 13 and 17 December, which we know will be really frustrating for our customers.

“We’re advising customers to seek alternative means of transport and to only travel if they really need to on the

days of strike action.

“Customers should check their journey in advance to make sure your train is running.”

