



Department
for Transport

The Baroness McIntosh of Pickering
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

From the Minister for Rail
**Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
CBE**

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17 April 2025

Dear Baroness McIntosh,

I am writing in response to a point you raised in the House on 11 March following Lord Beith's question on the proposed East Coast Main Line (ECML) timetable, and I sincerely apologise for the delay in my response.

During the session you asked me about the frequency of direct trains from Northallerton and Darlington following the introduction of the new December 2025 ECML timetable. The table below summarises the changes to mainline services between now and December 2025.

Trains per weekday To:	From Darlington		From Northallerton	
	Today	Dec-25	Today	Dec-25
Edinburgh	42	31	9	0
Newcastle	79	77*	25	18
Sunderland	-	-	6	6
Middlesbrough	-	-	17	17
Manchester	17	18	19	16
Manchester Airport	-	-	14	14
Liverpool	16	17	3	0
London	33	38	16	25

* LNER and NR are developing plans to increase this to 78 to address a gap in the evening peak service.

Whilst overall the timetable does provide slightly fewer services for both Northallerton and Darlington, the timetable structure has been designed to provide capacity where it is most needed. For example, LNER has

reduced the number of station calls on its London to Edinburgh services, but added a new hourly service from London to Newcastle. This means that more passengers benefit from additional seats and shorter journey times on the most popular routes. This does also mean some people that currently have direct services will need to change trains.

I hope you find this information helpful. I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', written in a cursive style.

Peter, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL