



ASSOCIATION of TRAIN OPERATING COMPANIES



## **PRESS RELEASE**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2006

### **NATIONAL RAIL TIMETABLE MOVES ONLINE**

The National Rail timetable has today been published online for the first time. The timetable contains the complete details of the more than 20,000 passenger train services operated by the Britain's 23 train operating companies across 11,500 miles of track. The production of one single national timetable volume occurred for the first time in 1974 with the publication of the Great Britain Passenger Timetable. In 1986 it became a bi-annual publication, reducing the number of supplements that were needed throughout the year. Today, the National Rail Timetable is available online, free of charge, and in easy to download sections on Network Rail's website ([www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)).

The December 2006 edition will be the penultimate edition to be published as a printed document, with the May supplement being the final printed edition. From December 2007 the National Rail Timetable will only be available online.

The availability of the timetable online will mean that the information will ultimately be more accurate as it will be easily updated and will remove the need to reproduce a large number of supplements.

The National Rail Timetable contains full details of rail services operated over the National Rail network, together with rail and shipping connections with Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Islands and certain European destinations.

National Rail Enquiries, ([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or 08457 48 49 50), remains the official information service for National Rail and provides impartial advice on all aspects of train travel – timetables, fares and buying tickets, live train running updates and other useful information.

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For further information, please contact the ATOC Press Office on 020 7841 8020.

Notes to editors:

- A full copy of Barry Doe's look at the history of the National Rail Timetable will be available from the ATOC communications website (<http://www.atoc-comms.org/docs.asp?cat=studies>)
- The National Railway Timetable board, an industry body, has taken the decision that the May 2007 edition of the National Rail Timetable will be the last printed version. The decision has been made in relation to the large decline in demand from 134,000 in 1994 to just 20,000 currently, of which around two-thirds are sold to the public.
- The new online version is in no way intended to compete with National Rail's existing online timetable but simply offers another resource for those seeking train times.

## **BARRY DOE'S THIRTEEN LANDMARKS IN THE HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY TIMETABLE SINCE 1948**

<b>1948</b>	British Railways is born and its six Regions each publish a timetable twice-yearly
<b>1961</b>	'Bradshaws' that had existed since 1839 in parallel with the railways' own timetables cease publication in May after around 1500 editions
<b>1965</b>	'British Rail' is the new name for British Railways; the famous double-arrow symbol is introduced; all timetables go over to 24-hour clock
<b>1968</b>	With British Rail moving away from fares calculated by distance and moving towards marketing pricing, fares disappear from timetables
<b>1970</b>	As timetables would last beyond decimalisation in February 1971, the 1970 timetables shows mixed £p and £sd prices
<b>1974</b>	Regional timetables replaced by a single annual volume called the <i>Great Britain Passenger Timetable</i> . 50p for 1350 pages, in essence the National Rail Timetable is born. The use of 'weekdays' is dropped as being ambiguous – until then it had meant Monday-Saturday. Today it means Monday-Friday, proving the ambiguity!
<b>1984</b>	The timetable's name is changed to <i>British Rail Passenger Timetable</i>
<b>1986</b>	The timetable reverts to twice yearly publications to avoid too many supplements

<b>1987</b>	Second Class renamed 'Standard'
<b>1994</b>	The name changes again to <i>Great Britain Passenger Railway Timetable</i>
<b>1999</b>	The name changes, for one edition, to <i>Great Britain National Rail Passenger Timetable</i> before becoming today's <i>National Rail Timetable</i> in September
<b>2004</b>	The main timetable change-date moves to December to match the European standard
<b>2007</b>	The last printed National Rail Timetable will be published in May. In December, when it expires, the timetable will exist only as on-line acrobat files

### **About ATOC**

The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) is the official voice for the passenger rail industry - representing train companies to the government and other opinion formers on transport policy issues. Britain's train operators are working together to change rail travel for the better.

ATOC manages many joint activities for train operators including revenue allocation and settlement, impartial retailing, National Rail Enquiries, Railcard marketing, staff travel arrangements, international products and travel agent licensing.

### **About Network Rail**

Network Rail is the 'not for dividend' owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes the tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations – the largest of which we also manage

We aim to provide a safe, reliable and efficient rail infrastructure for freight and passenger trains to use

Website: [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)