



## BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

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**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

### **BGORUG COMMENT ON TfL Press Release - Thousands of London Overground customers set for new trains as TfL awards contract to Bombardier Transportation**

As picked up by RAIL magazine please note the wishful thinking in the very last paragraph. The 8 Class 172 diesel units are 2-CARRIAGES ONLY! TfL went out to tender for 3-carriage diesel trains in May 2012 but never placed the order, condemning passengers to ever worsening overcrowding which is now set to last until 2018.

Meanwhile Barking - Gospel Oak passengers have to endure 3 more years of intolerable overcrowding before the new trains arrive. If Network Rail complete electrification of the route on time in mid 2017, the diesel trains will running for a year under energised power cables which will only be used by occasional electrically hauled freight trains!

Attached photos show Barking - Gospel Oak peak trains:

1. 2J91 17:28 from Gospel Oak at Walthamstow Queen's Road on a normal evening 18/06/2015
2. 2J93 17:50 from Gospel Oak at Walthamstow Queen's Road on 29/04/2015 when the 17:28 had been cancelled. The 17:37 had been totally full.
3. Unidentified morning Barking - Gospel Oak service at Leyton Midland Road on 11/06/2015 when the 06:52 & 07:18 from Barking and the 07:59 from Woodgrange Park had all been cancelled.

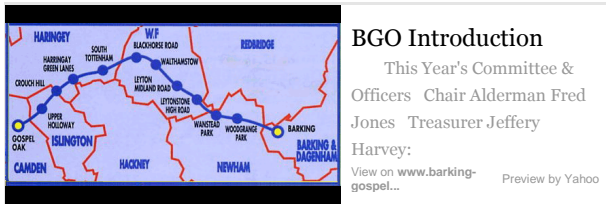


TfL has promised to install some additional handrails inside these trains for standing passengers hold onto.

BGORUG is holding a public meeting for beleaguered passengers discuss the situation and agree a plan of action for urgent relief from overcrowding on Thursday 9 July at 7pm in Walthamstow. The meeting will be a few minutes walk from Blackhorse Road station at Gnome House, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS. The Gnome House cafe will be open from 6.30 pm.

Network Rail, London Overground and Transport for London were all asked to send representatives to the meeting to hear passengers' complaints but all three refused!

Glenn Wallis  
Secretary  
Barking - Gospel Oak Rail User Group  
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On Friday, 19 June 2015, 12:02, Richard Wood <Richard.Wood@london.gov.uk> wrote:

Hello Glenn,

Following your email, please find below the TfL press release that has been sent out this morning.

Many thanks,

Richard Wood  
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**From:** TfL Press Office [mailto:PressOffice@tfl.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 19 June 2015 09:07  
**Subject:** TfL Press Release - Thousands of London Overground customers set for new trains as TfL awards contract to Bombardier Transportation

PN-183  
19 June 2015

## Thousands of London Overground customers set for new trains as TfL awards contract to Bombardier Transportation

- New air-conditioned trains will serve West Anglia, Barking to Gospel Oak and Romford to Upminster routes from 2018
- Work underway to immediately improve services ahead of new trains coming into service

Thousands of customers on London Overground routes in East and North East London will travel on new air-conditioned trains from 2018, after Transport for London (TfL) today announced that a contract with a capital value of around £260m will be awarded to

Bombardier Transportation to build a new fleet of trains.

The 45 new trains will operate on the Liverpool Street to Enfield Town, Cheshunt (via Seven Sisters) and Chingford routes, which became part of the TfL network in May, as well as on the routes between Barking and Gospel Oak and between Romford and Upminster.

The new trains will transform the service experienced by customers on these routes, and will have similar features to the fleet that serves other parts of the London Overground network, including walk-through carriages, air-conditioning and improved accessibility. TfL's 24 stations on the West Anglia routes are now, as with the rest of London Overground, staffed at all times and are undergoing an extensive programme of cleaning and other improvements to bring the service up to the high standards experienced elsewhere on the network.

The contract, which is subject to a statutory ten day standstill period, will see the trains built in Derby – supporting hundreds of jobs in the area and more than 20 apprenticeships. TfL's wider supply chain supports some 60,000 jobs outside the Capital.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, said: "This brand new fleet of trains will enable London Overground to carry a growing number of passengers more reliably and speedily than ever. The award of this contract is good news not just for London Overground customers but for UK plc as well. By investing in new trains here in the Capital TfL is helping to support jobs and skills in Derby and right across the country."

Mike Brown MVO, Managing Director of London Rail, said: "These 45 new trains will significantly improve the comfort, reliability and overall quality of train services for our customers. Some of the trains we have inherited along the West Anglia route are over 30 years old and have not been in use for some time. We're now working hard to overhaul these trains to make them more reliable until the new trains come into service from 2018.

"Ordering new trains for the Gospel Oak to Barking line and West Anglia route together, as well as including a provision to order more trains should passenger demand warrant additional capacity, ensures that we get best value for money for our customers."

The trains that TfL inherited on the Liverpool Street to Enfield Town, Cheshunt (via Seven Sisters) and Chingford route are more than 30 years old and are not in good condition. The condition of the trains has been causing some delays, so until the new trains arrive TfL is refreshing the existing fleet as well as investing an additional £2million to modify the trains to make them more reliable - including replacing any defective doors and deploying additional engineers to ensure repairs are carried out quickly and efficiently.

## Ends

### Notes to Editors:

- The contract is for 45 trains to be introduced from 2018;
  - 31 new trains to replace all the old Class 315 and Class 317 trains on the Overground West Anglia and Romford to Upminster routes;
  - 8 new four-carriage trains for the electrification of the existing Overground route between Gospel Oak and Barking;
  - 6 new trains to bolster services on other Overground routes.
- The contract also gives TfL options for more trains to meet future demand and provide potential frequency improvements. The contract between TfL and Bombardier covers the manufacture and maintenance of a new fleet
- The Gospel Oak to Barking route, which is already part of London Overground, is being electrified by Network Rail and due to be completed in 2017. The new four carriage electric trains will run on the route after electrification has been completed, replacing all of the three-carriage Class 172 diesel trains, and will provide improved journey times and more capacity.

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