

Dear Member



This is just a quick newsletter to update you with the latest on the driver shortage.

The good news is that ASLEF have announced that there will be no strike and that drivers are encouraged to again make themselves available for rest day working.

It is not entirely clear to me when this will happen - and it is not something that FCC can control. I hope that the reasonable worst case is that a near normal service will resume on Monday 14th December with the new timetable. FCC have told me that there is no real minimum lead time for the full timetable - for instance if, during the course of tomorrow, enough drivers make themselves available for working on Thursday, then there could be a (near) normal service on Thursday.

In the short term, all I can suggest is that you watch for developments on the FCC web site.

Here is a selection of links:

- BBC News: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8402553.stm>
- ASLEF: http://www.aslef.org.uk/information/116487/fcc_strike_called_off/
- St Albans Review: <http://tiny.cc/r3uB9>

Although not directly related to the current state of the driver shortage, there was an interview in Monday's Financial Times with Sir Moir Lockhead, chief executive of FirstGroup (see <http://tiny.cc/vsYl6>). Two items stand out: "With drivers refusing to work overtime, but with no official action announced, management was slow to react" (appears to be the FT Reporter paraphrasing his comments), and "The decision of staff not to work overtime hit us much harder than we thought".

Compensation options other than 'DelayRepay'

I have been told that our request for compensation options other than DelayRepay is to be considered at an FCC Executive Committee meeting this Thursday, and I am hopeful of positive news.

If we do not get good news, then the next stage will be to issue a press release and commence a publicity campaign to get pressure applied to FCC Management from as many sources as possible to obtain suitable compensation.

I will write again with the latest situation on Thursday evening or over the weekend.

In the meantime **I recommend you keep expired tickets.**

Regards

Neil

Neil Middleton
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