

Grand Central Announces Significant Expansion Plans

For the North East and West Yorkshire Services to London

Grand Central today submitted an application to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) and began consultations within the rail industry to introduce a major expansion of services for passengers travelling along its existing routes.

The proposals aim to significantly improve connectivity between key destinations in the North East and West Yorkshire with London, offering increased frequency and new direct journey opportunities. Subject to approval, the new services are targeted for launch as early as May 2025.

Key highlights of the proposed expansion include:

- **Increased frequency:** Up to two additional daily return services between London and West Yorkshire, bringing the total to six daily services, providing over 360,000 additional seats per year. A 50% growth on West Yorkshire services.
- **Enhanced North East route:** An additional early morning departure from York to London Kings Cross and a late-evening return service providing over 195,000 additional seats per year.
- **New direct services:** Introduction of four daily calls at Seaham on Grand Central's North East services, providing passengers with a convenient direct connection to the capital. This will be Seaham's first and only direct connection to London.
- **Additional stops:** Building on the success of the January 2024 launch, some of the new services will include additional stops at Peterborough.

"These proposed additional services are a significant step forward in Grand Central's long-term strategic development," said Sean English, Chief Operating Officer of Grand Central. "We are confident that expanding our operations will not only benefit our existing customers but also attract new passengers and stimulate growth in key markets."

"We believe these proposals are essential to providing customer choice within the rail industry and strengthening connections between communities and businesses," English continued. "By offering competitive fares and the high standards of service our customers value, we aim to make train travel the most attractive and affordable option for travellers up and down the country".

"Grand Central is confident that the ORR and the wider rail industry will share their vision for this exciting expansion plan".