

Press Release

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CrossCountry disappointed at RMT's decision to ballot

CrossCountry says it is surprised and disappointed at the announcement by the Rail Maritime and Transport Workers Union (RMT) that it would ballot its members for industrial action.

The RMT announced on Thursday 22 May it would ballot its members concerning changes to the onboard catering provided on CrossCountry's trains.

Speaking after the RMT's announcement, CrossCountry's Managing Director Andy Cooper, said: "We have been engaged in discussions with the RMT's Company Council representatives for many months concerning our plans to improve CrossCountry that were announced last year, including the changes to onboard catering. All our research tells us customers would prefer an at-seat service and it is surprising the RMT would oppose the delivery of this improvement for rail users."

"It is disappointing that the RMT should announce a decision to ballot while these talks are ongoing. At no point has a dispute been mentioned by the local RMT representatives and we are unclear why the National Executive of the RMT should take this decision now."

ENDS

**Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures on the following page.
For more information please contact the CrossCountry Press Office on 0121 654 7010.**

Notes to editors

CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk

CrossCountry facts and figures

STATIONS SERVED: 131

ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 288

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,800

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: Penzance to Dundee (701 miles)

CrossCountry is part of the Arriva group which operates transport services in ten European countries, employs more than 38,000 people and provides more than one billion passenger journeys every year. For more information about the Arriva group visit www.arriva.co.uk

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