

PRESS RELEASE

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Stagecoach Group is joining ALLRAIL:

It is a great pleasure to announce that one of the Europe's leading privately owned multi-modal public transport groups, Stagecoach, is joining our association ALLRAIL.

ALLRAIL is the Alliance of Rail New Entrants in Europe, an EU rail recognised body that pushes for a fully competitive EU passenger rail market – from local trains through to high speed. In those countries in Europe where this has already been allowed to happen, this has consistently led to:

- **Innovation and improved service**
- **Lower fares**
- **Reduced taxpayer subsidy** and
- **Modal shift to rail** away from less sustainable transport modes – which the reason why the new EU Green Deal should be pushing for market opening too.

Around 2.5 million customers a day trust Stagecoach's greener, smarter, and better value transport services. It has long experience in the passenger sector, with 40 years of running public transport services.

Over the last two decades, Stagecoach has operated many passenger rail services of all types in the UK, ranging from local and regional to high speed long distance trains.

It was majority partner in the joint venture "Virgin Trains" that tripled passenger numbers on the United Kingdom's West Coast main line between Glasgow and London from around 14 million journeys in 1997 to nearly 40 million in 2019. Indeed, the sustainable transport charity Transform Scotland has confirmed that: "rail's increased market share has driven down carbon emissions" on that route¹.

Dr Erich Forster, President of ALLRAIL, states: "Stagecoach has achieved the kind of modal shift that the EU wants to emulate. Therefore, the EU Green Deal must include a programme that expedites market opening in order to encourage such private operators".

Neil Micklethwaite, Business Development Director of Stagecoach, says: "As a major operator of rail services in the UK for over two decades and with significant experience of operating public transport services across Europe, we are pleased to be joining ALLRAIL. We support the need for open and fair competition in Europe, driving a system that delivers the best service for customers, communities and the environment."

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¹ <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/virgin-trains-london-glasgow-anglo-scottish-passengers-air-rail-record-a9197041.html>