



Olympics boost brings record number of passengers to Tube - and delays are down by 20 per cent

- More passengers and fewer delays, TfL data shows
- Lost customer hours down 20 per cent, according to new figures
- New high for journeys made, with 1.229 BILLION trips
- Delays down 56 per cent since 2003, figures show



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The number of Tube journeys rose by five per cent to a record 1.2bn last year after the Olympics boosted passenger numbers.

Mayor Boris Johnson hailed a "stonking year" for public transport in which there were also unprecedented numbers using the London Overground and DLR, according to figures from Transport for London.

An influx of Games spectators saw passenger numbers rise by up to 15 per cent while DLR usage rocketed 65 per cent.

Tube usage during the Games was also cranked up by hundreds of thousands of Olympic staff and volunteers using "free" travel cards paid for with public funds.

Tube chiefs released the figures as part of a campaign to protect Government grants for election year in 2015 amid concerns they will be cut.

They will tell chancellor George Osborne that spending on transport in London - which is more than double any other English city or region - is an essential driver of economic growth.

Some 1.229bn passengers used the Tube last year although TfL admitted "recent slowing growth rates are being closely monitored".

Reliability has improved 20 per cent with 23 million hours lost due to delays, said TfL.

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There were 125 million journeys on the London Overground, a rise of 22 per cent on the previous year; and 100m passenger journeys on the DLR, a year-on-year rise of 16.2 per cent.

London Assembly transport committee chair Caroline Pidgeon said: "Slowly but surely some real changes are taking place on parts of the Tube after so many decades of neglect and underinvestment.

"The challenge is not to be complacent but instead to ensure capacity and reliability continue to improve for many more years to come. This is absolutely essential for a capital city that is growing and where severe overcrowding is still a daily reality for too many Tube passengers."

Mayor Boris Johnson said: "It has been another stonking year for London and the Tube network which has enabled the capital to showcase itself to the world. With London due to grow by a city the size of Birmingham over the next decade it is imperative that we continue to see the sustained investment in our transport network."

Tube managing director Mike Brown said that his bid to take over rail services on commuter lines remained on track despite a shake-up of the franchising process in the wake of the West Coast mainline fiasco.

He is targeting the London section of lines currently operated by Southeastern and Greater Anglia and said clauses can "be readily written into the franchises" to allow this.

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rodders123 1 day ago

"I think the Tube is outstanding. I lived in London for a year and it served me well almost all the time. Stop complaining guys. Its a whole lot better than many other places in the world." - Absolutely correct. What it also means is ASLEF and other dinosaurs are defunct. There is absolutely no need for unions for this great system. The employees are paid well with decent holidays/pensions, so it's time Boris flexed his muscles and got rid of these idiots who's only aim is to disrupt the easy running of our fantastic city. Let's get rid!

Reply 2 replies

-1

rodders123 1 day ago

..and notice that the commentator "ASLEFshrugged" is very picky with his/her replies, not actually giving any information with regards to the union interventions which are totally disruptive to our city, instead focusing on technical issues instead. The unions are dead in the water and the Tube's success is nothing to do with their disruption. Why is it people like you disrupt millions for the sake of a thousand? Totally selfish AND MUST BE STOPPED.

Reply 1 reply

-2

Anonymous 1 day ago

Better still if Boris did what's his paid to do and met unions instead of hiding in cupboard !

+2

JamesWood 2 days ago

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