

[Click here to print](#)

MailOnline

Network Rail faces £75million fine over huge rise in delays despite it being handed billions to maintain the country's railways

- Nearly 26,000 long-distance trains delayed or cancelled from April to July
- Network Rail blasted for 'lack of knowledge' on track condition
- It missed all its punctuality targets last year

By [Ray Massey](#)

PUBLISHED: 01:16, 13 September 2013 | **UPDATED:** 01:17, 13 September 2013

•
•
•
•

47 shares

[57](#)

[View comments](#)



Performance is now so bad Network Rail has been threatened with a £75million fine

Network Rail is failing to maintain the country's railways despite being handed billions in public funds, according to a damning report.

Millions of passengers have been delayed by cancelled and late-running trains because the rail firm – set up to maintain Britain's tracks – is not doing its job.

Nearly 26,000 long-distance trains were seriously delayed or cancelled from April to July alone – up 18 per cent from around 22,000 last year.

Performance is now so bad that the firm has been threatened with a £75million fine.

Its failings were spelled out in a report from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), which said the operator 'needs to do much more'. The damning assessment comes as rail passengers face inflation-busting fare rises of up to 9.1 per cent.

It also coincides with furious rows about the fatcat pay deals and bonuses enjoyed by Network Rail executives, which critics have deemed 'rewards for failure'.

Rail Minister Norman Baker said he was 'dismayed' at the extent to which Network Rail was letting down passengers.

The ORR said the operator's problems were 'all of its own making'. It criticised Network Rail's 'lack of knowledge' of the condition of its tracks, its failure to renew them quickly enough, and 'poor maintenance planning' leading to poor performance and delays.

The report notes how in the three months to July there were 7 per cent more track failings than last year, creating 11 per cent more delays – the equivalent of 833 days for all passengers.

One buckled track incident in July alone caused delays totalling 4,649 minutes, or 77 hours.

Network Rail's £6billion budget, which is funded largely by taxpayers, has been set to ensure that a minimum of 92 per cent of long-distance trains run on time.

But just 87.1 ran punctually, resulting in cancellations or serious delays for 25,852 trains. The report warns: 'Network Rail faces a substantial penalty at the end of 2013-14 if it does not achieve its target for long-distance services.

'This could be of the order of £75million if performance does not improve.'

Network Rail admits it is responsible for six in ten of the delays endured by passengers, with the remainder being the fault of the train operators themselves.

The company missed all its passenger train punctuality targets last year, with 655,000 late trains, of which 187,000 were cancelled or more than half an hour late.



The company missed all its passenger train punctuality targets last year, with 655,000 late trains, of which 187,000 were cancelled or more than half an hour late

The ORR said it was ‘unlikely to deliver’ 23.5 per cent of agreed cost efficiencies by the deadline of next March.

Its report concludes: ‘Network Rail is not yet delivering the performance set out in its recovery plan. Where it is taking action this is not having the required effect. Network rail therefore needs to do much more.’

ORR chief executive Richard Price said: ‘Network Rail has been entrusted with large amounts of public and passengers’ money, which should deliver the levels of efficiency and punctuality it promised.

‘However, the company is falling short of expectations. It is facing many problems of its own making, having failed to deliver plans to renew Britain’s rail network, with delayed works now affecting performance.’

Mr Baker said: ‘I am, as I think the rest of the travelling public will be, dismayed to learn that Network Rail is still failing to tackle deterioration in the punctuality and reliability of the network – a matter I have regularly raised with them.

‘They must do better. Their record on day-to-day performance is letting them down.’

A Network Rail spokesman said: ‘Although we have been unable to reach tough targets, half a million more trains arrive at their destination on time compared with five years ago.

‘But we can do better, especially on long-distance routes.’

MOST WATCHED NEWS VIDEOS

- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [Next](#)



♦ [Moment Lamborghini smashes into a wall and snaps in half](#)



♦ [Couple 'caught having sex' while DRIVING on expressway](#)



♦ [Spooky clown scaring Northampton is caught on video](#)



♦ [Footage shows shoppers fleeing attack inside Nairobi mall](#)



♦ [Damian McBride's publisher acts bouncer to drag protester...](#)



♦ [BBC weather girl thrown a curveball when map reads -88...](#)



♦ [Meet the cutest kitten in the world!](#)



♦ [Sneak Peek: Cher Lloyd feat. T.I. "I Wish" Video Teaser](#)



- [Explosions and then black smoke rises from besieged mall](#)



- [Paul Gascoigne opens up in emotional interview for...](#)



- [Tourist out of hospital since losing foot in NYC cab crash](#)



- [Miracle escape for Porsche rally driver in epic high-speed...](#)

MOST READ NEWS

- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [Next](#)



- [British hero of the mall massacre: Ex Royal Marine with a...](#)



- [‘You’re a very bad man’: Astonishing...](#)



- [Unbelievable moment a golden eagle is pictured swooping on a...](#)



- [Pictured: The Queen's sitting room at Balmoral... and a...](#)



- [Has British 'White Widow' been killed in final assault on...](#)



- [Britain's Breaking Bad: Law-abiding couple set up £4million...](#)



- [Kenya mall terrorists 'burnt victims' faces and cut off...](#)



- [Former world's fattest man sheds 48 stone and finds love...](#)



- ['I wanted to give him a hug but I thought, no, he's a...](#)



- [Man bought 'new' armchair on eBay... then discovered it was...](#)



- [The last of the women with bound feet: 102-year-old...](#)



- ['I'll end you': Loan shark gang terrified customers with...](#)



Comments (57)

Share what you think

- [Newest](#)
- [Oldest](#)
- [Best rated](#)
- [Worst rated](#)

[View all](#)



[Report comment](#)

[redstripe](#), a proud small island, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

I'm sure this Network Rail boss was bought in to sort out the mess that Network Rail were left in by the last boss and he has done nothing, except of course line his own pockets with an obscene salary and undeserved bonuses, oh well he'll just poodle off somewhere else, like Barclays or Shell, these types live in a fantasy world, fat cats and hypocrites, the lot of them.

1
1

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[soptern](#), sunshine coast, Australia, 1 week ago

if everything is in private hands like the government wants ,we will have cheaper electricity,cheaper rail tickets,cheaper water,LOL like hell we will and they knew it,,still time to bring blair and brown up for treason

1
5

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Richard](#), Leicester, 1 week ago

Can someone please send the people at the top who operate Network Rail to Switzerland or Germany or Austria, these counties will show them how to operate a modern clean and on time railway network, they always run on time with no whinging its the wrong rain - wrong snow or wrong leaves on the lines ! they just operate a proper service at a cost which is reasonable for the public to use !! Having been to see family in Prague on many occasions they have a fantastic rail network and tram as well as underground network all at reasonable costs to the consumer !! No booking a year in

advance to get the best price ! I buy on the day and get the best price !!

[0](#)
[4](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Will](#), London, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

What a misleading an inaccurate headline. Who'd have thought you'd find such a thing in the Mail!?

[1](#)
[6](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Ben Russell-Gough](#), London, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

£75 million that would, of course, be paid by the taxpayer as this is a pseudo-private entity that is, in fact, a part of the public sector. Far better to dismiss the senior management with a note on their personal docket that they are unsuitable for any other senior posts in the public sector. That would hit them where it hurts - in their phoney-baloney careers.

[0](#)
[5](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[exPat](#), Almeria, Spain, 1 week ago

So once again NETWORK Rail has failed. The OUT going Boss was paid MEGA buck. The INCOMING Boss is being paid MEGA bucks. We have been told, of the NEED, to pay Massive Salaries to get the BEST people. Obviously this is not working as shown with constant FAILURE. So if we are going to have to live with constant FAILURE, maybe it is time we STOPPED paying MEGA bucks, and used the money to reduce fares. Just a thought!!!!!!

[0](#)
[18](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Rotciv Werdlem](#), London UK NOT EUSSR, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

ANOTHER PRIVATISED SUCCESS STORY - next stop, Royal Mail!

[3](#)
[20](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Zargon](#), dundee, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

great idea £75m fine,will leave less to spend on network. Just suspend managers bonus...that would have a greater effect. but that wont happen.

[0](#)
[22](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[kazza](#), Wiltshire, United Kingdom, 1 week ago

They'll just put up the price of tickets again to pay the fine!!

[0](#)
[19](#)

[Click to rate](#)

[Report comment](#)

[Sabah](#), Bath, 1 week ago

The only winner here are the Railway bosses and we, the tax payers and commuters are the suckers.

0
25

[Click to rate](#)

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.



Who is this week's top commenter? [Find out now](#)

Like
MailOnline

Follow
@MailOnline

Find this story at www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2419611/Network-Rail-faces-75million-fine-huge-rise-delays-despite-handed-billions-maintain-countrys-railways.html

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

[© Associated Newspapers Ltd](#)
