



First Great Western train

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First Great Western had more crimes on its network than on any other train company in the country.

Figures show that there were 1,179 recorded crimes on First Great Western trains last year, ranging from theft to violence, an average of three offences a day.

Overall police recorded 53,885 offences in England, Scotland and Wales in 2012-13. The figure includes crimes at stations, in station car parks, on tracks and on trains.

Theft of passengers' property accounted for a third of all crimes, violence 15 per cent, and theft and vandalism of cars and bikes for 14 per cent. Theft of railway property was nine per cent.

Hundreds of crimes, ranging from theft of luggage to violence, took place at London's Paddington Station, from where many of First Great Western's trains depart.

But the company pointed out that when you take into account that their trains call at 270 stations along 1,241 miles of track and carried 97 million passengers in 2012-13, their record compares well with rivals.

According to the statistics obtained under a Freedom of Information request, there was a crime for every 82,527 passenger journeys on FGW trains last year.

A First Great Western spokesman said: "These figures compare well to those of East Coast, Virgin and others when passenger numbers, and the size of network, are taken into account.

"Total crime across our network continues to fall year-on-year, as passenger numbers continue to rise."

Proportionally, the route with the most crimes reported is the state-run East Coast line, operating the main route from London King's Cross to Newcastle and Edinburgh.

It recorded 497 offences in 2013 but carried only 19 million passengers.

Despite the new figures, officials insisted that the rail network is becoming safer.

Andy Trotter, chief constable of British Transport Police, said: "Despite the significant increase in passenger numbers in recent years, we have seen nine years of falling crime on Britain's rail system."

David Sidebottom, acting chief executive of independent watchdog Passenger Focus, said more has to be done to reduce railway crime.

“Passengers will be pleased to see this slight dip in crime figures,” he said

“However, more than 10,000 crimes are still being recorded on trains each year so the hard work must continue.”

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