



**STATEMENT ISSUED BY TfL TO BGORUG
ON 22ND MAY 2019
REGARDING THE ENTRY INTO PASSENGER SERVICE OF THE
FIRST CLASS 710 4-CAR EMUs ON LONDON OVERGROUND**

I'm very pleased to let you know that the first of the brand new four-car electric trains will enter passenger service on the Gospel Oak to Barking line tomorrow, Thursday 23 May 2019.

This is the first step towards returning the service on this line to the regular timetable of four trains per hour, boosting capacity and reliability. The new electric trains, built by Bombardier Transportation in Derby, will carry almost 700 people, doubling the capacity of the old diesel trains that were previously operating on the line, and improving air quality along the route.

As you know, issues with software development on the new trains resulted in delays to their introduction. However, they have now been approved by the rail regulator for passenger service on this line. Two of the new trains will start on the line this week, in addition to the modified electric trains that have been used as an interim measure since January. The new trains will allow us to run additional services on weekdays and weekends to complement the current two trains per hour interim timetable.

Together with the London Overground's operator, Arriva Rail London, we will monitor the new trains closely as they enter service to ensure they operate reliably. Once we are satisfied there are no operating issues, more trains will be put into service and it is expected the regular 15 minute frequency will be restored later in the summer.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience the situation has been causing to our customers and thank them for their patience. We will be offering a month of free travel for customers on this line from September to show our appreciation. This was secured by the Mayor and is being funded by Bombardier Transportation. We will provide more detail on how this will work closer to the time.

Local Communities & Partnerships Specialist | Public Affairs & External Relations