

Virgin Trains

Virgin Trains has operated the InterCity West Coast long-distance passenger services on the West Coast Main Line between Greater London, the West Midlands, North West England, North Wales and Scotland.

Grayrigg derailment

In 2007 a Pendolino train derailed in Cumbria. The train was carrying 109 people. Several carriages were left lying on the railway embankments. An elderly woman was fatally injured and five people seriously injured. The accident was caused by a faulty set of points. The train itself however was widely praised for the way it retained its structural integrity.

Franchise

In 2009 Richard Branson launched a campaign to have the next franchise period extended for 20 to 30 years, so that Virgin would be able to spend more on infrastructure and be able to see a return on investment. Branson said the journey time between London and Birmingham could be reduced by 22 minutes to under one hour. This was turned down by the Department for Transport.

The government is now pressing ahead with the construction of a new high speed railway line to the north of England. More on this in a future issue.

This information is from a [Wikipedia](#) page. This is a rather long article. You might want to have a quick look at the pictures or just give it a miss.