Extra direct train services between North Wales and London to start next week

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The route run by Avanti West Coast has been impacted by two years of disruption during the pandemic with the number of direct trains slashed.

There are currently two direct trains in each direction on weekdays — a total of four services.

But on Monday this will be hiked to nine direct services between Holyhead and London — and there are plans for this to be increased from September. Prior to Covid there had been services every two hours in each direction.

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These are the new times for services between Colwyn Bay and Euston starting on Monday. See the Avanti site for the <u>full</u> <u>timetable</u> with services also stopping at Holyhead, Bangor, Llandudno Junction, Rhyl, and Chester.

- Southbound to Euston 05.38; 06.42; 14.49; 15.42
- Northbound to Colwyn Bay 09.10; 10.10; 16.10; 18.10; 19.10

Clwyd West MS Darren Millar has been among those pressing for an increase in services and he welcomed the news.

He said: "Whilst I appreciate the operational resource challenges Avanti West Coast has had to contend with as a result of the pandemic, including Covid-related staff sickness, passengers have been left extremely frustrated by

the scaled back service that has been in place over the past two years.

"Those who need to travel to and from London on a regular basis have found it extremely challenging with at first no direct services, and from February only a reduced number compared to before the pandemic. .

"They will therefore very much welcome the additional services from Sunday, and the further direct services from September.

"Having fast, reliable direct services between North Wales is crucial to the region's recovery from the pandemic. I will continue monitoring the situation to ensure the promised additional services from Sunday, and later in year, are delivered and efficient."

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