

London Waterloo station and South West upgrade passenger research

November 2017



Key findings

- 97% were aware of the infrastructure upgrade works taking place in August before starting their journey during the works. This has increased from 88% in wave 3 (an increase of 9 percentage points), higher than the level of passenger awareness that was reached in the comparable wave of the Bath Spa research (84%)
- Knowledge of the detail about the upgrade work has also increased since wave 3, by far more than general awareness, with 77% saying that they know a 'fair amount' or more about the upgrade works (increased from 33% in wave 3)
- A very large proportion of passengers (98%) knew that the infrastructure works would have an effect on train travel to/from Waterloo during August (increased from 92% in wave 3). Slightly fewer knew that the number of trains running would be reduced (88%)
- Satisfaction with the information provided about the works and the service alterations has greatly increased since wave 3, with 76% of passengers satisfied (wave 3: 39%). Only 10% are dissatisfied with the information provided, which is very similar to dissatisfaction levels in the comparable wave of the Bath Spa research (11% dissatisfied)
- Passengers are most satisfied with where the information was available and the amount of information provided (82% and 79% satisfied respectively). But passengers were less satisfied with the information being available when they wanted it (64%) and having to go online for detailed information (59%)
- The most common way of finding out about the infrastructure works is information at stations or during the journey: 78% of passengers said that they had seen posters or banners at stations; 57% had heard announcements at stations and 56% heard announcements on trains
- Over half of passengers (55%) looked up timetable information online for their journey (73% of Twitter users)
- Eight in ten (79%) support the infrastructure upgrade works at Waterloo. This has increased substantially from 61% in wave 3 and is higher than the equivalent figure in the Bath Spa research (59%)
- Almost two thirds of passengers experienced a delay during wave 4, with 51% saying there had been a minor delay and 13% a major delay. Delays were most commonly caused by trains running less frequently or making more stops/taking longer than normal. When delays did occur, satisfaction with how it was handled was relatively high (63% of those delayed being satisfied) compared to the NRPS (38% satisfied)
- Three quarters of passengers (74%) said they have adapted or will adapt their journeys during the infrastructure works so that they will still travel (increased from 52% in wave 3):
 - 55% travelling earlier and 19% travelling later
 - 22% using an alternative route
 - 20% using a different station.





Background and methodology

Background and objectives

- South West Trains and Network Rail are upgrading the infrastructure at London Waterloo station to accommodate longer trains and increase passenger capacity at the station, thereby improving the passenger experience. The improvements will mean more seats, longer trains and a bigger, brighter Waterloo
- From 5 to 28 August 2017 platforms 1-10 were closed in order to extend platforms 1-4. This led to a temporary reduction in capacity and the timetable that could be operated
- Transport Focus, working with South West Trains and Network Rail, wished to monitor passengers' awareness and understanding of the works and to evaluate their reactions to the planned alterations and how these were communicated
 - Prior to the quantitative research, qualitative research was conducted to understand what passengers need to know, how and when is best to communicate, channel preferences, understanding of the reasons for the works and future benefits, and to ensure that all aspects are covered in the quantitative research
- Note: South Western Railway took over the franchise on 20 August during the part-closure

Methodology

- Four waves of quantitative tracking survey (Nov/Dec 2016

 benchmark wave; Feb/March 2017 after main comms activity; May-Jul 2017 just before the platform closures; August 2017 during the platform closures)
 - There is potential for further waves of the quantitative survey (after the August part-closure) to assess the overall success of the arrangements once all platforms have returned to use and the new timetable is in place
- Combination of online and paper questionnaires
- 'Paper' respondents recruited at stations; 'online' respondents recruited using:
 - Waves 1-3: SWT season ticket database and disruption alerts database as well as SWT Twitter
 - Wave 4: SWT Twitter only
- BDRC Continental was commissioned to carry out this research; this report contains the findings from the fourth of four waves of the quantitative stage
- More details on the methodology on page 4.







Key points to understand about the methodology

- Fourth wave of (at least) four aim is to measure change over time
 - Possibility of further wave(s) under new franchise to continue tracking and measure actual experience once new timetables come into effect
- Several sample sources these do hit different targets/produce different results:
 - Paper self-completion questionnaires distributed at stations (as with NRPS) as carried out for Reading and Bath Spa*
 - SWT databases season ticket holders and disruption alerts (personalised e-mail invitations)**
 - Twitter (opt-in to generic invitation)
- Sample is not representative in the way that NRPS is
 - Differences are irrelevant for tracking purposes so long as proportions in subsequent waves match wave 1
 - Waves 1-3 have been matched to wave 4 such that weighting is not necessary**
 - But impact on comparability with other projects ('benchmarks')
- From a research perspective, this gives important insight into the effects of using different sample sources
 - 'Online' does bring in younger males (especially Twitter which attracts more 16-25 year olds)
 - 'Online' more critical/negative/(spontaneous?)

^{**}Wave 4, which was conducted during the works at Waterloo, does not include passengers from season ticket holder or disruption alerts databases. The TOC was unable to send out the survey due to workload constraints linked to the Waterloo works and change of franchise on 20th August 2017. Results from waves 1-3 in this report have therefore been revised to exclude passengers from TOC databases so that results are directly comparable. Some questions were not asked in wave 4. These questions are included in this report for broader context and for these questions all passengers (from all sample sources) who answered the survey in waves 1-3 are included, to maximise the robustness of results.







^{*}This report includes comparisons to the Bath Spa research from 2015, for broader context. The fieldwork period for wave 3 in Bath was during the works. Bath Spa wave 3 is therefore used as a comparison to Waterloo wave 4 which was also completed during the works

Methodology – further detail





Paper

Target sample size per wave

250-500

500

Achieved sample wave 4

242 (wave 3: 514, wave 2: 545, wave 1: 491)*

556 (wave 3:486, wave 2: 484, wave 1: 542)

Questionnaire

Online questionnaire hosted by BDRC

8 page paper self-completion questionnaire

Respondents recruited via

Twitter and for waves 1-3 SWT databases (season ticket holders and disruption alert subscribers)

Interviewers at stations (and for wave 4 only four shifts conducted on board replacement buses)

Sample control

Recent rail users (in the last 3 months), users of specified station(s)

Recruitment at NR/SWT categorisation of most affected stations

Stations

Rail users had to start/end their recent journey(s) or change trains at any of these stations:

Questionnaires were handed out at the following stations:

Berrylands, Chessington North, Chessington South,
Clapham Junction, Claygate, Earlsfield, Esher, Hampton
Wick, Hersham, Hinchley Wood, Kingston, London
Waterloo, Malden Manor, Motspur Park, New Malden,
Norbiton, Oxshott, Queenstown Road, Raynes Park,
Surbiton, Teddington, Tolworth, Vauxhall, Walton-OnThames, Weybridge, Wimbledon, Worcester Park

Esher, Basingstoke, Chessington South, Clapham Junction, Earlsfield, Hampton, Haslemere Hinchley Wood, Kingston, Norbiton, Queenstown Road, Raynes Park, Salisbury, Southampton Central, Surbiton, Tolworth, Twickenham, Vauxhall, Wimbledon, Winchester, Woking

Fieldwork dates

22nd to 25th August

(final week)





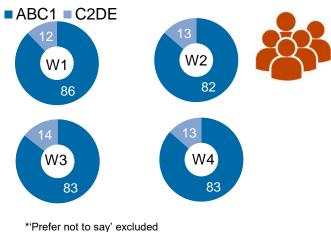




Who we spoke to? (1)

Gender (%) **Working status (%)** W1 total Full-time 51 56 55 54 student Retired 42 41 43 47 ■ Not working 82 80 76 Prefer not ■ Working part-3 3 3 3 to say time ■ Working fulltime Age (%) W1 W2 W3 W4 **■**16 – 25 total total total total 8 8 6 16 17 Ethnicity (%) 17 **■**26 – 34 21 **■**35 – 44 24 24 25 25 White ■ Other ■ Not stated **45 – 54** 26 23 **■**55 – 59 26 21 87 87 11 10 **■**60 – 69 8 8 10 **■**70+ W1 W2 W1 total W2 total W3 total W4 total 87 86 W3 W4

Social class (%)



Disability (%)



W1	W2	W3	W4
total	total	total	total
8	9	12	

... are affected by physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more

	W1 total	W2 total	W3 total	W4 total	
A lot	4	4	7	12	
A little	47	42	32	50	

Condition or illness impacts ability to make journeys by rail

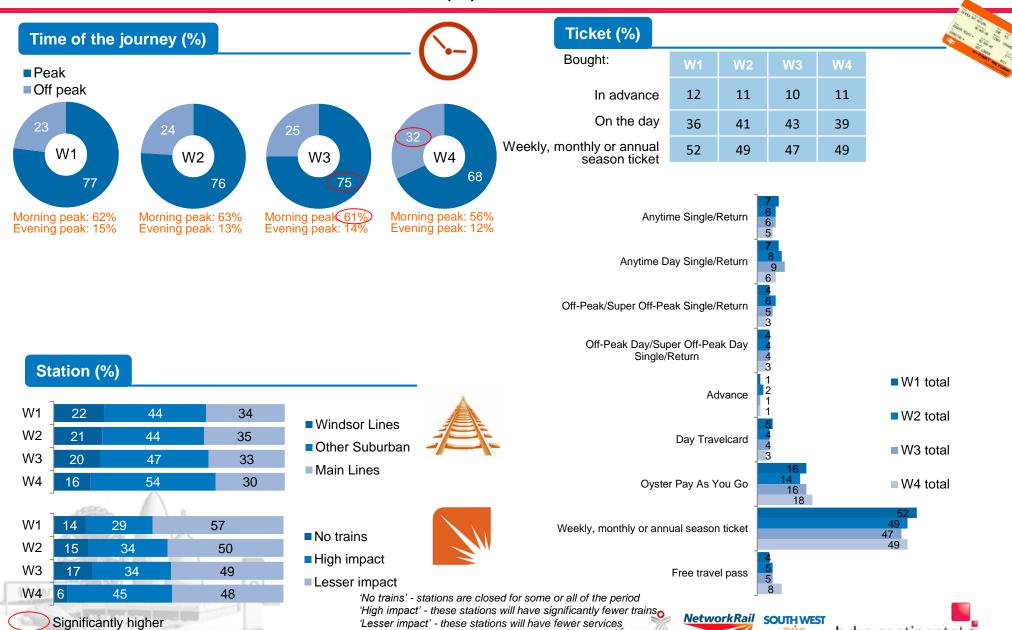






What type of traveller?

(based on today's/most recent journey) (1)



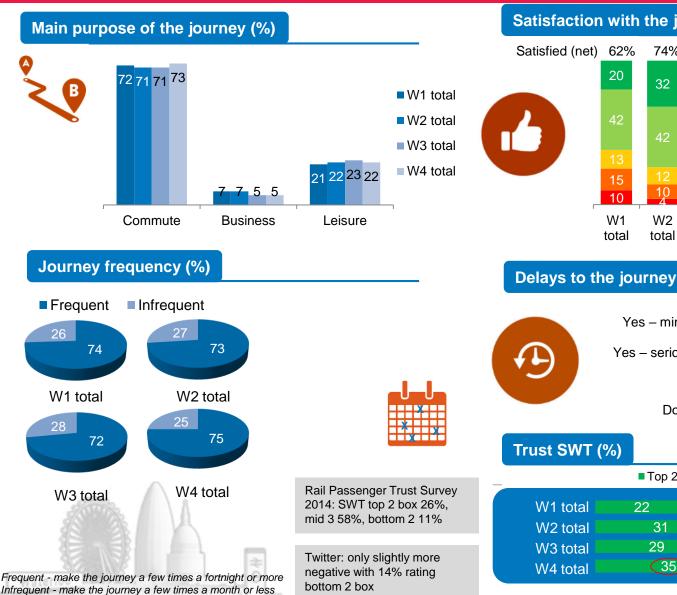
Base: All respondents: wave1: 746, wave 2: 781, wave 3: 756, wave 4: 798

transportfocus // \

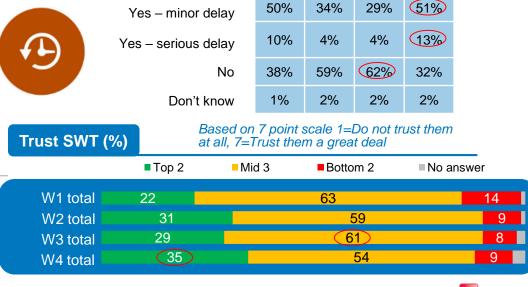
bdrc continental

What type of traveller?

(based on today's/most recent journey) (3)



Fieldwork dates: W1: Nov/Dec 2016 Satisfaction with the journey (%) W2: Feb/Mar 2017 W3: May-Jul 2017 Satisfied (net) 62% 74% 57% 78% NRPS Spring 2017: satisfied 82% 20 23 Business, leisure 32 31 Very satisfied and infrequent travellers, 60+ Fairly satisfied vears old. completing f2f survey Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 17 Fairly dissatisfied Commuters. 10 11 frequent travellers. 26-44 years old ■ Very dissatisfied W1 W2 W3 W4 total total total total

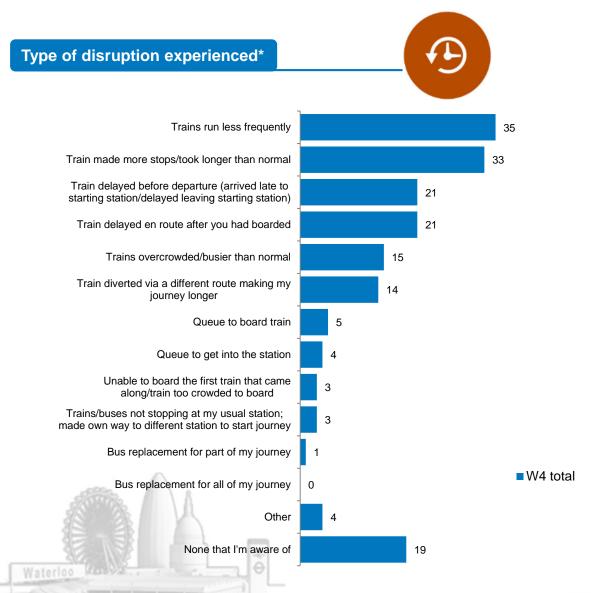


W1





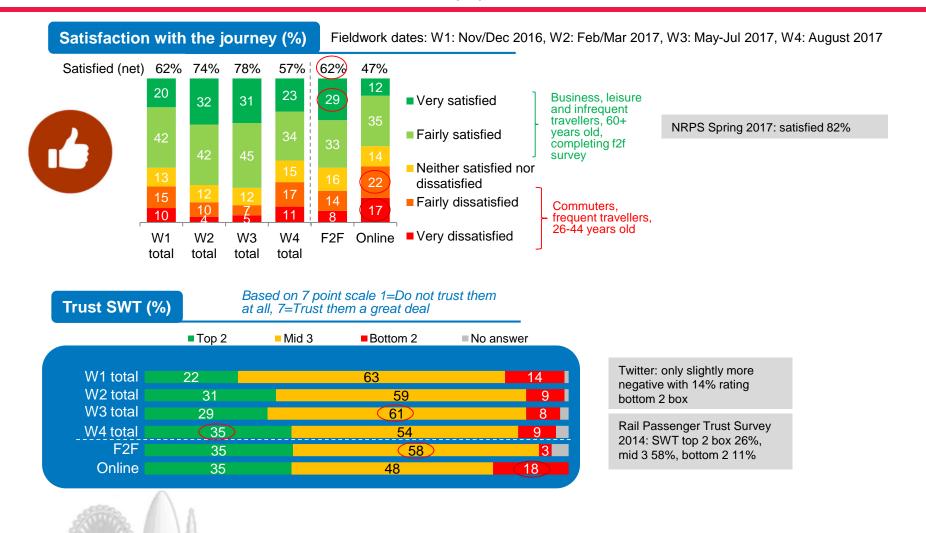
Wave 4 - what type of traveller? (based on today's/most recent journey) (5)





What type of traveller?

(based on today's/most recent journey) (6)











Awareness of infrastructure upgrade works planned for London Waterloo station in August 2017











Headline results wave 1 to wave 4

Wave 1 Wave 2 Wave 3 Wave 4



Awareness of the infrastructure upgrade works at London Waterloo station

41% 81% 88% 97%



How much know about the upgrade works planned for August 2017

7% 29% 33% 77% of all respondents know great deal/fair amount (17% 36% 38% 80% of all aware)



First found out about upgrade works planned for August 2017

39% 34% 77% 78% more than a month ago (all aware fieldwork in Nov-Dec 2016/Feb-Mar 2017/August 2017)







Headline results wave 1 to wave 4

Wave 1 Wave 2 Wave 3 Wave 4



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Awareness of detail (based on all aware)

72% 89% 98% ...will have an impact on train travel in and out of London Waterloo station from 5th-28th August 2017

57% 80% 84% 88% The number of trains running in August 2017 will be reduced

47% 49% 54% 70% The upgrade works are being planned for August, as fewer passengers tend to travel during the summer compared to other times of the year

43% 52% 55% 72% The impact (...) will vary depending on where and when you are travelling

25% 24% 26% n/a More information about how routes and stations will be affected will be provided early in 2017



Satisfaction with the information provided about the infrastructure upgrade works planned for London Waterloo station in August 2017 (based on all respondents)

16% 35% 42% 76% very satisfied/fairly satisfied; 55% 30% 30% 10% fairly dissatisfied/very dissatisfied



Support of infrastructure upgrade works planned for London Waterloo station in August 2017

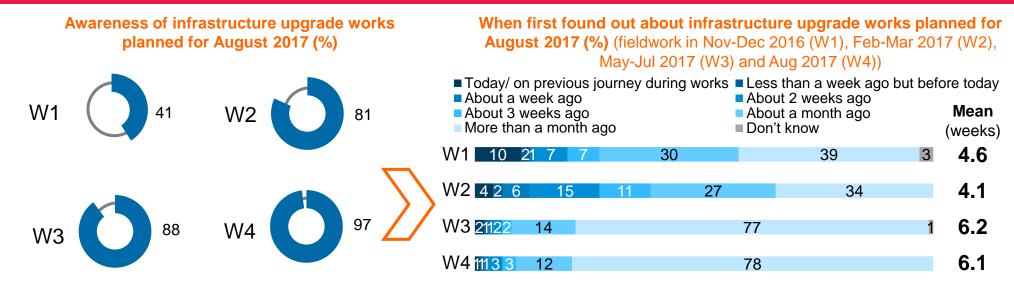
69% 66% 79% of all respondents strongly support/tend to support





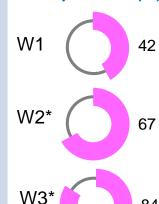


Awareness of upgrade works at London Waterloo station



- Awareness of infrastructure works further increased between wave 3 and wave 4, with 97 per cent of passengers aware in wave 4
- Awareness is very consistent across passengers using different routes and travelling from stations with varying levels of impact
- Commuters/frequent travellers are more likely to be aware of the planned London Waterloo upgrade works (98 and 99 per cent respectively in wave 4 compared to 92 and 95 per cent in wave 3)
- The online sample are more likely to be aware of the London Waterloo upgrade works than passengers recruited face to face (100 vs. 96 per cent in wave 4; 92 vs. 86 per cent in wave 3)

Bath Spa Aware (%)



Passengers at Bath Spa were less aware of the engineering works, with awareness in wave 3 (84%) being considerably lower than that in wave 4 amongst Waterloo passengers (97%)

> *Bath Spa W2 was conducted one month before engineering works commenced, which is comparable to W3 of Waterloo. Bath Spa W3 conducted during the works, which is comparable to W4 of Waterloo.



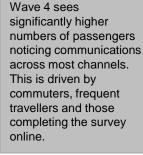


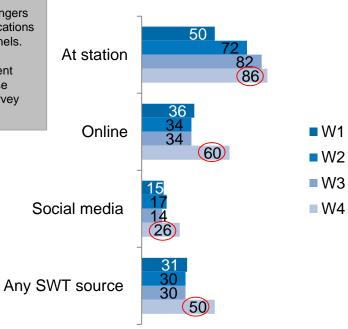


How found out about the upgrade works at London Waterloo station

Communication channels used – how found out about infrastructure upgrade works planned for August 2017 (%)

	W1	W2	W3	W4
Posters/banners around a station	17	51	72	(78)
Announcements made at a station	3	28	30	57
Announcements made on a train	2	38	28	56
Leaflets handed out at a station	21	28	27	51
South West Trains website	10	20	22	40
Posters/stickers displayed on a train	N/A	17	26	28
South West Trains social media page	4	14	12	24)
A printed timetable leaflet or booklet	2	3	5	24)
A friend, relative or colleague	9	15	11	(20)
A timetable on the internet	-	1	3	(16)
Network Rail website	3	3	5	(14)
Told by staff at a station or on a train	3	6	4	14
An email from South West Trains	2	6	6	13
National Rail Enquiries website	-	2	3	13
A train/travel app	-	1	1	8
Posters/billboards (not at a station)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8
Informed when I bought my ticket	1	2	2	6
TfL website	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
Other social media page	2	4	3	5
News in local press/radio/TV	9	4	5	3
Radio/TV ad	N/A	1	-	3
TfL electronic displays on buses/at stops/Underground stations	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Ads in local press/on radio/TV	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
SWT season ticket wallet	N/A	<0.5%	1	1
An SMS/text from South West Trains	-	-	-	1
Can't remember/don't know	3	1	1	<0.5%





%	At station	Online (total)	Social media	Any SWT source
Base	668	447	169	361
At station	100	92	95	93
Online (total)	62	100	100	100
Social media	24	38	100	44
Any SWT source	50	81	95	100



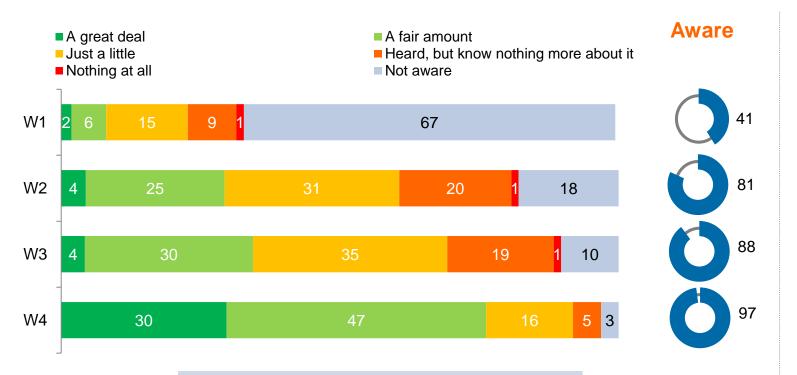
higher vs. W3

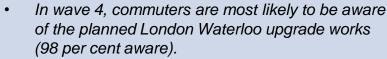




Knowledge of upgrade works at London Waterloo station

Knowledge level of infrastructure upgrade works planned for August 2017 (%)





Those using Windsor lines and those aged 60+ are more likely to know a fair amount or more about the upgrade works (50% and 58%)

*Bath Spa W2 was conducted one month before engineering works commenced, which is comparable to W3 of Waterloo.

Bath Spa Aware*

42

67

Bath Spa W3 conducted during the works, which is comparable to W4 of Waterloo.





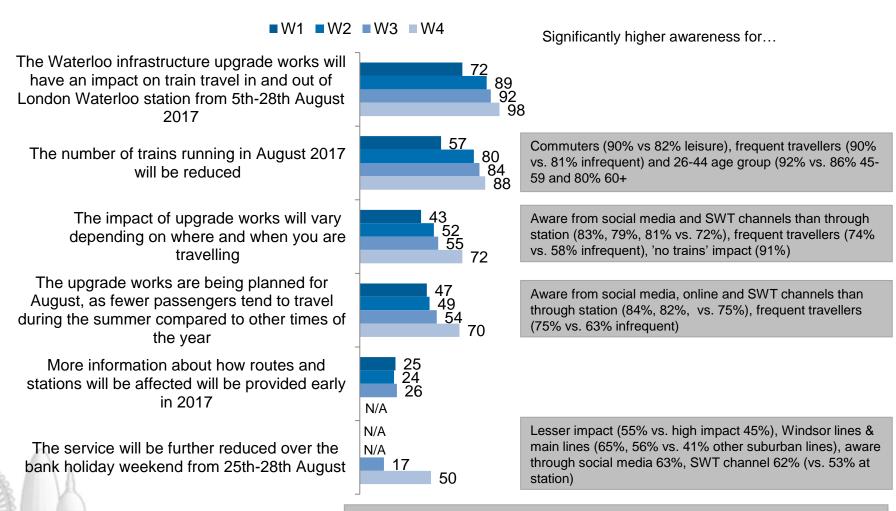


W2

Q12. How much, if anything, would you say you know about these infrastructure upgrade works planned for London Waterloo station in August 2017? Q11. Were you aware of the upgrade works planned for August 2017? Base: All respondents: wave 1: 746, wave 2: 781, wave 3: 756, wave 4: 798 Bath Spa 2015; Base: wave 1: 1007, wave 2: 1037

Awareness of upgrade works at London Waterloo - detail

Awareness of infrastructure upgrade works planned for August 2017 (%) - detail



Significantly higher awareness of all statements amongst those recruited online (for both wave 2, 3 and 4)



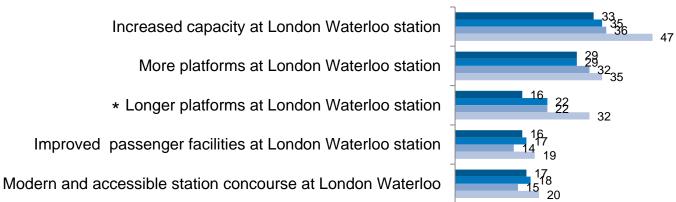




Perception of the personal benefits as a result of the upgrade works at London Waterloo station

Perception of the personal benefits as a result of the infrastructure upgrade works (%)

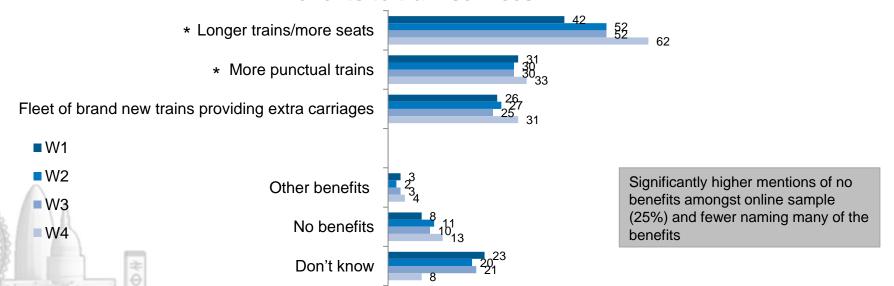
Benefits at London Waterloo station



Those with a 'great deal' of knowledge were significantly more likely to be able to list the benefits

* 'High impact' and 'other suburban route' users more likely to cite some benefits than 'lesser impact'

Benefits to train services



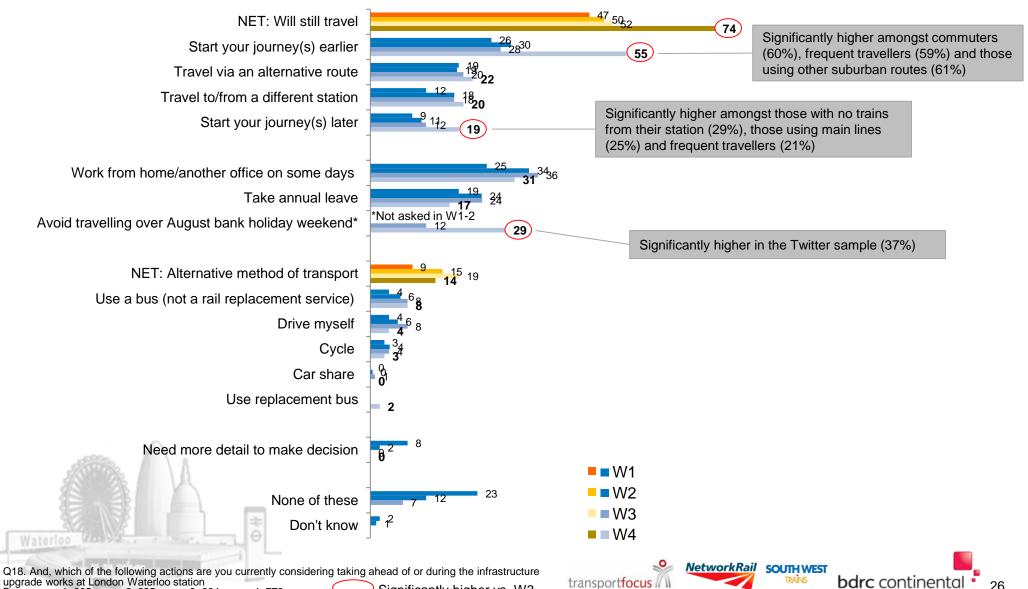






Action taken or considered ahead/during the infrastructure upgrade works at London Waterloo station

Action taken/considered ahead of or during the infrastructure upgrade works at London Waterloo station



Significantly higher vs. W3

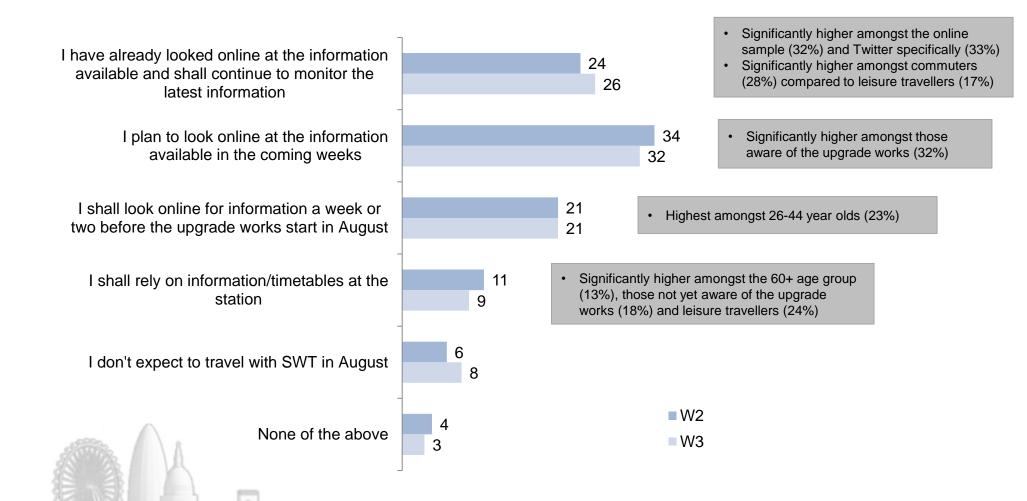






Waves 2/3 - Plans for obtaining detailed timetable information during the works in August

Plans for obtaining detailed timetable information during the works in August (%)*





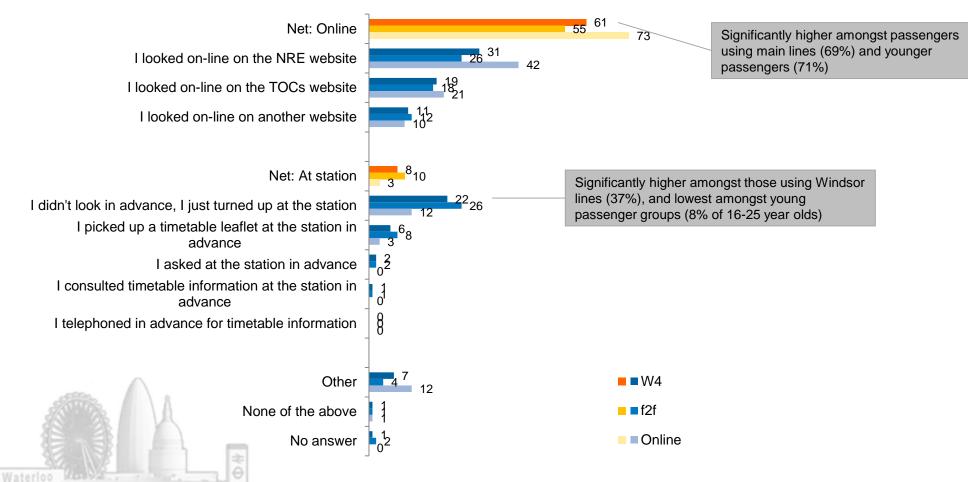




Wave 4 - How passengers obtained timetable information for their journey

Main line passengers were more likely to look up information in advance, with 82% checking information before travel (compared to 69% of all passengers). They favoured using the NRE website and the TOC website as the main channels for journey information

How passengers obtained timetable information for their journey (%)



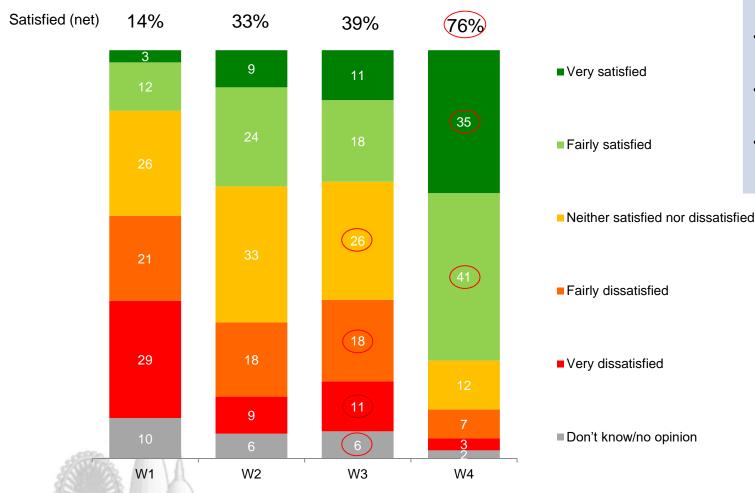






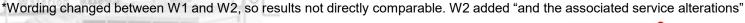
Satisfaction with the information provided about the infrastructure upgrade works at London Waterloo station and the associated service alterations





- 'Frequent' travellers more likely to be dissatisfied (12% vs. 5% infrequent)
- 26-44 and 45-59 more likely to be dissatisfied than 60+ (13%, 9% vs. 2%)
- 'High impact' lines more likely to be satisfied than lesser impact (82% vs. 75%)
- Online respondent are the most likely to be dissatisfied (17% vs. 7% F2F)

Significantly higher W4 vs. W3





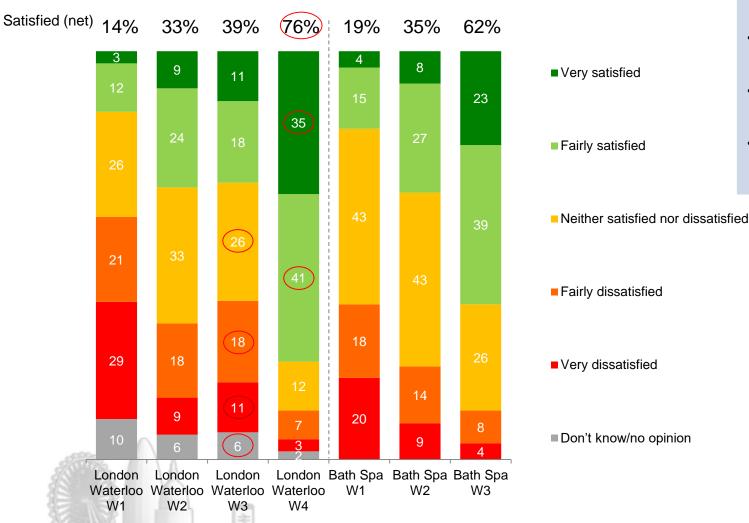






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- 'High impact' lines more likely to be satisfied than lesser impact (82% vs. 75%)
- Online respondent are the most likely to be dissatisfied (17% vs. 7% F2F)

Significantly higher W4 vs. W3

*Wording changed between W1 and W2, so results not directly comparable. W2 added "and the associated service alterations"

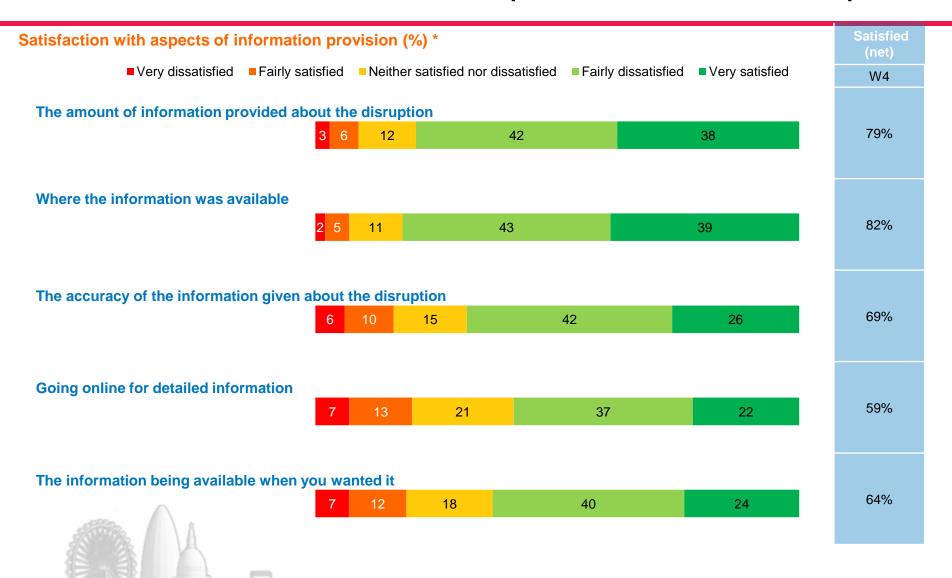








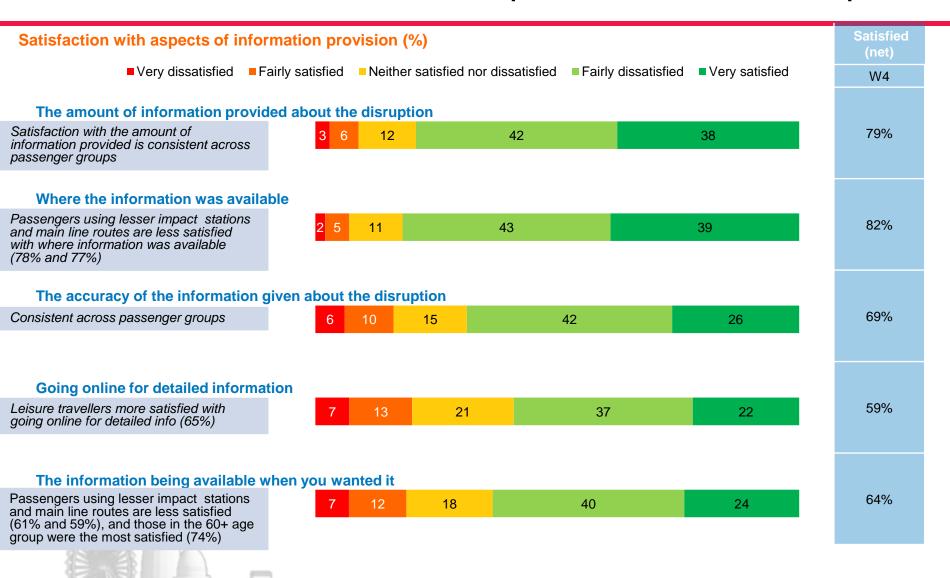
Wave 4 - Satisfaction with aspects of information provision







Wave 4 - Satisfaction with aspects of information provision









Wave 3 - What passengers wanted to know about upgrade works at London Waterloo station - spontaneous mentions

What more would passengers like to know about the infrastructure upgrade works planned for August 2017 – verbatims

New timetable info

A **timetable** showing the services that will be running

Which trains will be running – a precise timetable would be useful

Revised timetables would be good

Timetable details for the two trains an hour in the mornings and evenings which will run between Twickenham and Shepperton

Compensation/season tickets

What **compensation** there will be on season ticket due to disruption

I would like to know whether my Gold Card will allow me to travel on the GWR services via Reading/Paddington

Are Gold Card owners going to get a **refund** for August

Process if getting a part-refund for the month

What is the impact on my route?

Exact information about the timing implications for my regular journey

What will the impact be on travellers, will it cause delays to journeys

Everything that will **affect my journey** between Hampton Court and Wimbledon

Better idea of how my journey will be impacted

Type and level of disruption to expect

Dates, how it will affect me, alternatives if services are going to be altered

Timescale and expected impact of the improvement on my usual journey

How many trains are you reducing during the upgrade? Is the upgrade work likely to overrun?

How will it affect the **frequency of trains**

More precise information

Timetables, refunds for season ticket holders not willing to travel in August/if forced to travel in August, **alerts** for when the station is closed due to overcrowding

Which/How services will be affected. How long an average journey will now take and what time will return trains leave Waterloo

Which train lines will be opened or closed/have reduced services etc

Exactly which trains will not operate on the Surbiton-London Waterloo line

Future benefits

More detailed information about the extra train services that will be possible once the upgrade work has finished

Will trains be **longer**? Will **frequency** increase?

Expected benefits, especially the daily issue of **overcrowding**

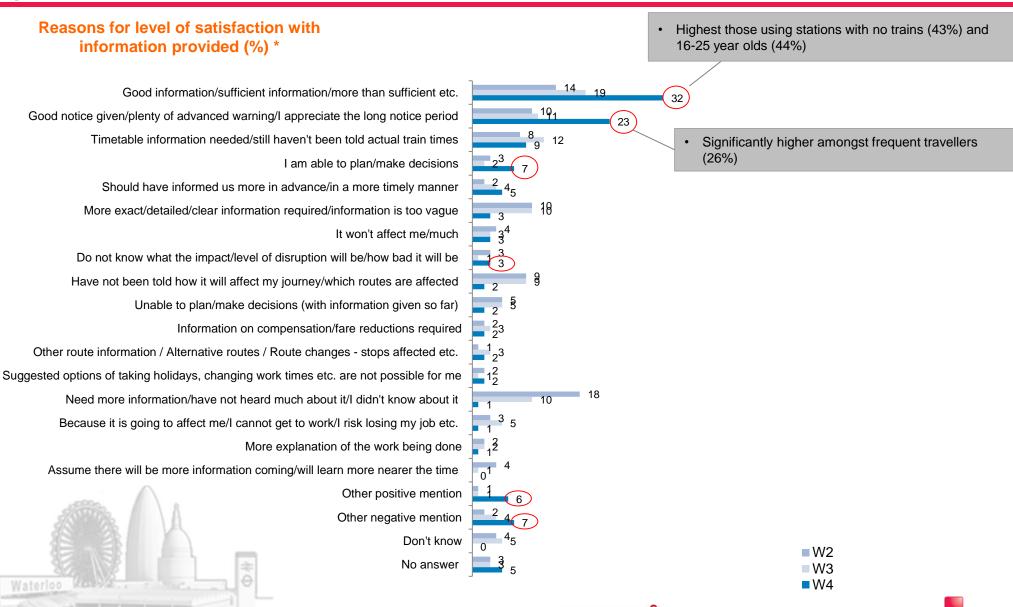
Improvements, e.g. longer trains, more shops, better signals







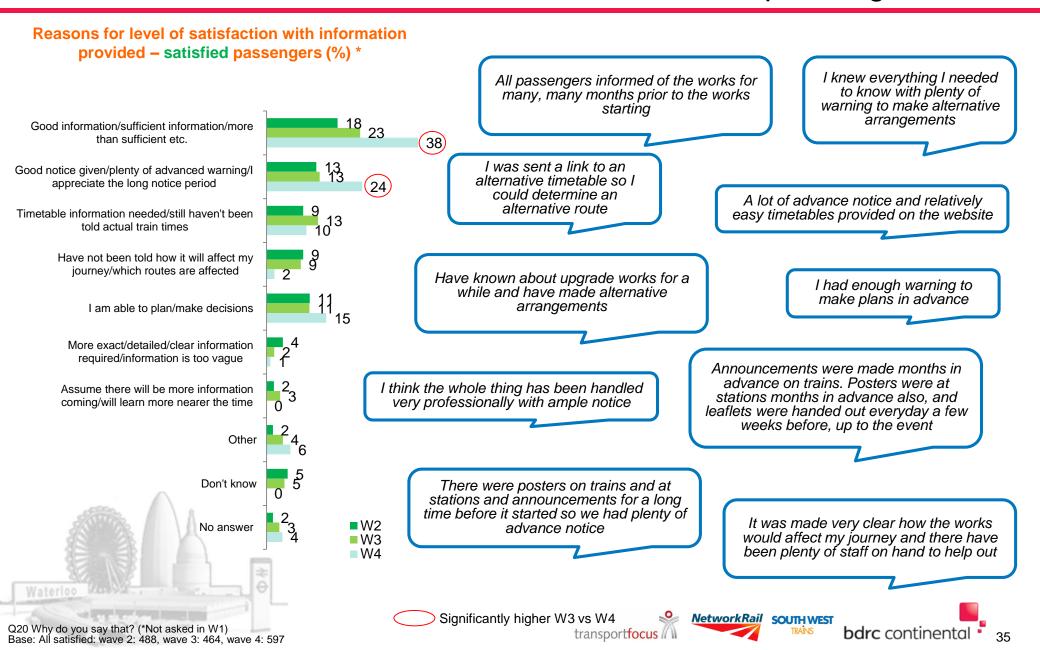
Reasons for level of satisfaction with the information provided about works and associated service alterations





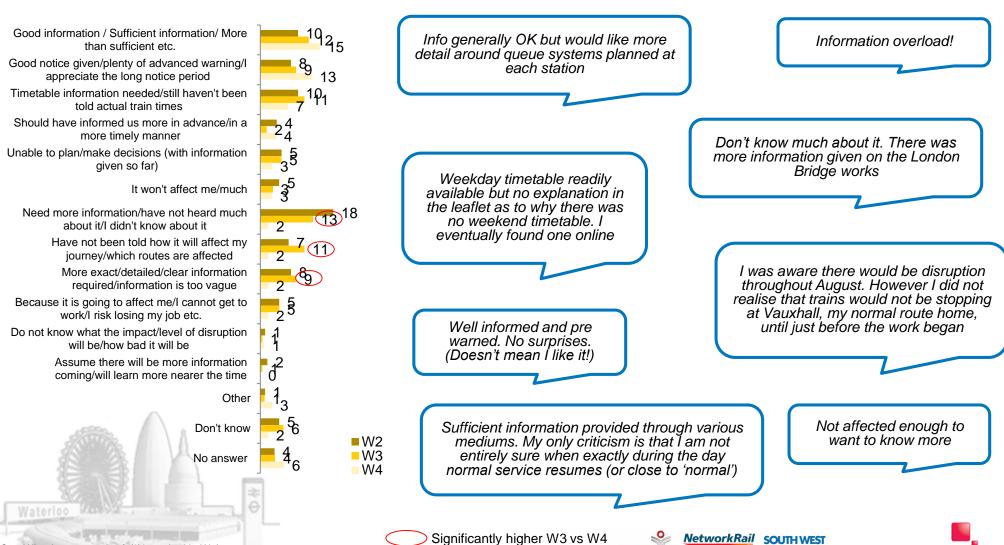


Reasons for level of satisfaction with the information provided about works and associated service alterations – satisfied passengers



Reasons for satisfaction with the information provided about works and associated service alterations – neutral passengers

Reasons for level of satisfaction with information provided - neutral passengers (%) *



transportfocus (A)



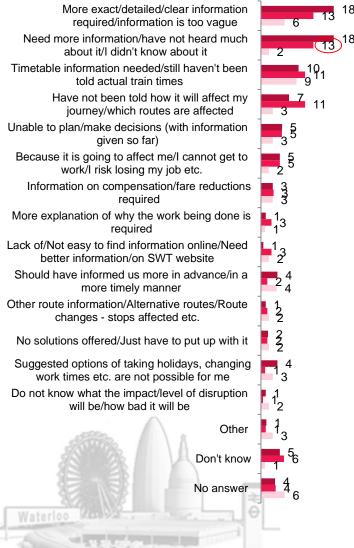


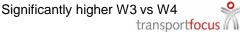
Reasons for level of satisfaction with the information provided about works and associated service alterations – dissatisfied passengers

■W2 ■W3

W4

Reasons for level of satisfaction with information provided – dissatisfied passengers (%) *









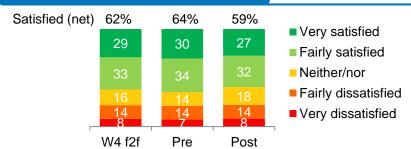
The derailment on 15 August

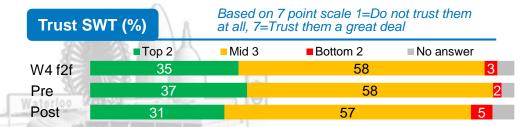
During wave 4 of the research a train derailed outside Waterloo on Tuesday 15th August, causing significant disruption at Waterloo and surrounding stations. Fieldwork was postponed between the 15th and 17th August due to the scale of the disruption. Despite the postponement of fieldwork there is the potential that the derailment could have affected passengers perceptions. The results shown on this page split the sample between passengers travelling prior to the derailment and those travelling afterwards. All respondents are taken from the face-to-face sample, since the online fieldwork was all conducted after the derailment.

Delays to the journey

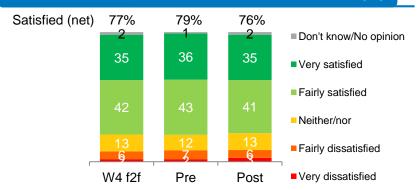


Satisfaction with the journey (%)





Satisfaction with information about the works (%)



	Satisfied (net)		
	W4 f2f	Pre	Post
The amount of information provided about the disruption	78	81	77
Where the information was available	83	81	84
The accuracy of the information given about the disruption	69	71	68
Going online for detailed information	61	64	59
The information being available when you wanted it	64	64	64

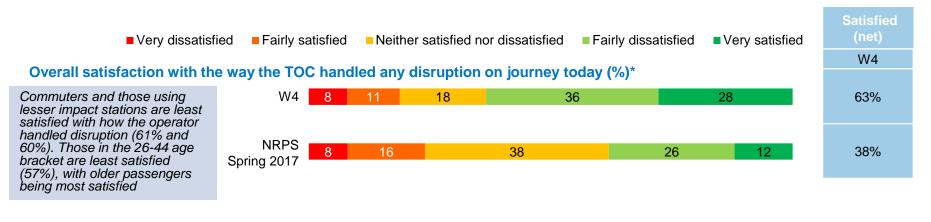






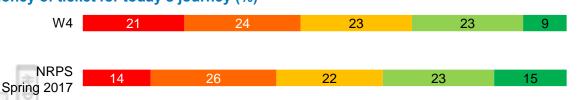
Satisfaction with how the operator handled any disruption, and with value for money

Delays to the journey W1 **W3** 50% 34% 29% (51%) Yes - minor delay (13%) Yes - serious delay 10% 4% 4% 62% No 38% 59% 32% Don't know 2% 2% 2% 1%



Satisfaction with value for money of ticket for today's journey (%)*

Passengers using suburban lines are the most satisfied with value (38%), as well as leisure passengers (56%) and those aged 60+ (61%)



Q25. Overall how satisfied are you with the way the train operator has handled any disruption to your journey today? Q26. How satisfied are you with the value for money of your ticket for today's journey?

*Asked W4 only Base: Q25 wave 4: 647; Q26 wave 4: 766









32%

40%

Wave 4 - Passenger satisfaction with replacement buses

Satisfaction with aspects of replacement buses - Chessington branch (%) *



Passengers found that it was easier to get a seat on a replacement bus, but generally felt that the legroom, seat size and toilet facilities were worse than on board a train









Wave 4 - Passenger satisfaction with replacement buses

Satisfaction with aspects of replacement buses (%very/fairly satisfied) *





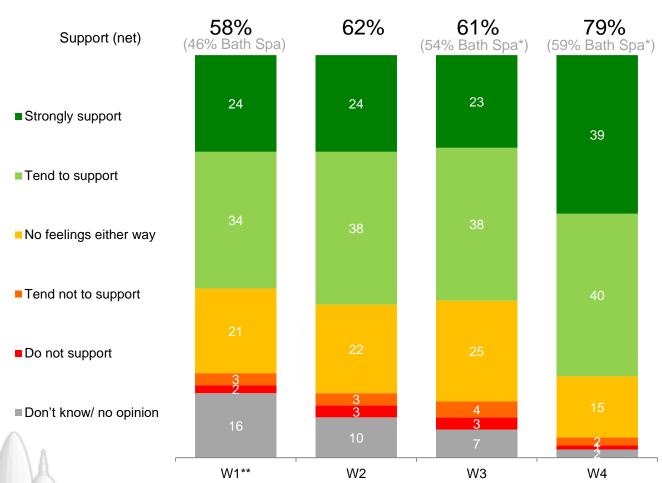






Support for upgrade works at London Waterloo station

Support for infrastructure upgrade works planned for **August 2017 (%)**



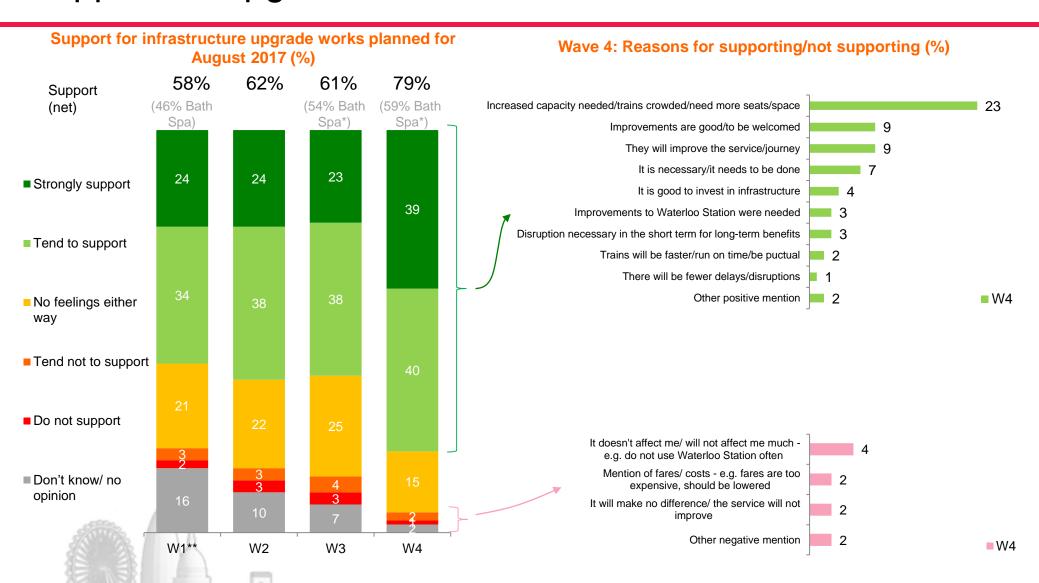
*Bath Spa W2 was conducted one month before engineering works commenced. Bath Spa W3 was conducted during the engineering works. **W1 results have been rebased and are therefore not as shown previously







Support for upgrade works at London Waterloo station



*Bath Spa W2 was conducted one month before engineering works commenced. W3 was conducted during the engineering works

Q21. To what extent do you support these infrastructure upgrade works planned for London Waterloo station in August 2017, or do you have no feeling either way? Q22. Why do you say that?

Base: All respondents/support/don't support: wave 1: 746, wave 2: 781, wave 3: 756, wave 4: 798

transportfocu

Bath Spa 2015; Base: All respondents wave 1: 1007, wave 2: 1037

transportfocus // \







Reasons for support for the upgrade works

Trains are becoming increasingly full and uncomfortable. Hopefully there will be more space in the future

Future requirements delivered ahead of need

It was obviously necessary. Better to do it as a 'short, sharp shock' rather than piecemeal

We need longer platforms so that more passengers can come in and out of Waterloo

Trains are currently overcrowded so something needed to be done

The infrastructure upgrade work at Waterloo can only be a good thing. Has to be done

They are necessary and long overdue. Waterloo if frequently overcrowded, trains are delayed and extremely busy. These upgrades will alleviate the issue

Improving the infrastructure makes for a better foundation and so a better travel experience

I support it if it means more punctual and frequent trains

Investing in public transport is very important for London

It's important to invest in your rail infrastructure

Work needs to be done to cope with the increasing number of passengers

I'm hoping it will ease overcrowding on the trains and prevent delays/disruption





