



## CALEDONIAN SLEEPER

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Journey of a night time

### **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**22 January 2019**

#### **New Caledonian Sleeper trains in London Euston test run**

Caledonian Sleeper's new carriages made their first trial run to London Euston today (Tuesday 22 January) ahead of their launch later this year.

The overnight rail service will begin operating its new fleet by the end of May 2019, in time for the peak summer season.

And as trial operations continue to gather pace, a total of 16 carriages made the trip from Scotland to London – a significant milestone in the testing phase.

Ryan Flaherty, Serco's Managing Director at Caledonian Sleeper, said: "Caledonian Sleeper will undergo a huge transformation in 2019 and we are now entering the final stages of our testing and approvals programme.

"Bringing our new carriages into London Euston for the first time is an exciting landmark for the team, and we cannot wait until they are arriving and departing from the station six nights a week."

The fleet, built at a cost of over £100m and part funded by a capital grant from the Scottish Ministers of £60m, has been designed to accommodate the modern-day traveller and cater to both business and leisure travel guests. A range of accommodation options will be offered, including:

- Caledonian Double (double bed with en-suite)
- Club Rooms (solo or twin with en-suite)
- Classic Rooms (solo or twin)
- Comfort Seats
- Fully accessible rooms for guests with reduced mobility

Other new features will also be included, such as a hotel-style key card entry system, more accessible rooms, charging panels and WiFi throughout the train.

The trains will initially be introduced on the Lowlander route between Glasgow / Edinburgh and London before being rolled out onto the Highlander which serves Fort William, Aberdeen and Inverness.

To find out more about the Caledonian Sleeper, visit [sleeper.scot](http://sleeper.scot).

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For further information, please contact:

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### **Notes to editors**

- The Caledonian Sleeper service is an overnight rail journey between Scotland and London which is operated by Serco on behalf of Transport Scotland.
- Scotland's Caledonian Sleeper service has been hailed as one of Lonely Planet's 'Super Sleeper Trains' and the London to Fort William service made the world's best-selling travel guidebook's top ten list.
- Every night, apart from Saturday, guests are transported both north and south between Inverness, Aberdeen, Fort William, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London Euston.
- Travel bookings can be made up to 12 months in advance on [www.sleeper.scot](http://www.sleeper.scot).
- The Caledonian Sleeper service currently offers a range of ways to travel - comfortable and affordable seated carriages, shared rooms and first-class private accommodation – with a dining car offering an extensive locally-sourced menu.
- Caledonian Sleeper is committed to supporting local communities and suppliers:
  - 92% of food produce is sourced within 50 miles of Dingwall.
  - All guests are provided with a Sleep Kit which includes a sleep mask and ear plugs. First and Standard Class guests also receive Arran Aromatics toiletries.
  - The Head Office and Guest Services Centre are located in Inverness employing around 30 people from the locality.
- Brand new trains will be launched in 2019, which will offer innovative ways to travel in comfort on the Caledonian Sleeper service with double and en-suite rooms as well as a redesigned Club Car for dining, serving the best of Scottish produce in the on board menu.