

SOUTH WEST TRAINS
Written evidence for Southampton City Council -
Air Quality Scrutiny Panel
January 2015

Dear Louise,

A few thoughts on this from South West Trains point of view:-

We are trialling a new diesel transmission system on one diesel unit which means that the engine does not have to work so hard to get up to line speed. It is hoped that this will save 10% on fuel consumption with the resulting reduction on emissions. The trial is on-going.

We use low sulphur diesel and the engines are maintained by Cummins and SWT engineers at the specified intervals. It is not practical to shut these units down for stopovers of less than 10mins. Units automatically shut down after 15 minutes once drivers key removed.

We use FUEL SET fuel additive at various times in the year to eliminate "diesel bug" contamination which is believed to have a positive effect on emissions (although this has not been proved by SWT but we are monitoring).

Later this year we will also see the introduction of the Driver's Advisory System that will advise driver's what speed to travel at to meet the needs of the timetable. This should reduce congestion and stopover time at stations as well as regulate fuel consumption and the resulting emissions.

Some of diesel units are using a lower rated hp engine (350hp vice 400hp) with no affect on train performance but resulting in less fuel consumption and emissions.

Longer term, there are proposals to electrify the route from the Midlands to Southampton (via Winchester & Romsey) to allow freight trains to use electric locomotives.

It should be noted that on average we run 2 x 2 car diesels per hour through Southampton (one in each direction), with minimal dwell time. Other passenger operators such as First Great Western (2 x 3 car 158's per hour), and Cross Country (4 x 4 or 5 car per hour) will also have an affect on emissions.

The council may wish to respond on this issue in the Wessex route study consultation which is seeking view and support for railway initiatives up until 2043. I attach below.

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/long-term-planning-process/wessex-route-study/>

I hope this helps.

Many Thanks.

Phil Dominey
Stakeholder Manager
South West Trains