

**URGENT BGORUG PRESS RELEASE:
COMMUTERS DELAYED BY UP TO 45 MINS BY MELTDOWN ON LONDON
OVERGROUND'S MISERY LINE**

30TH AUGUST 2018 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yesterday (Wednesday) evening homeward bound commuters suffered cancellations and delays of up to 45 minutes when two trains broke down. The line is used by 10,000 passengers every weekday. Because London Overground has no spare trains to replace broken down ones on the Barking – Gospel Oak *Misery Line*, cancellations persisted until the end of the day.

There were 13 cancellations:

- 14:50 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 15:33 Barking to Gospel Oak
- 16:20 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 17:03 Barking to Gospel Oak
- 17:50 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 18:05 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 18:33 Barking to Gospel Oak
- 19:19 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 20:03 Barking to Gospel Oak
- 20:50 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 21:33 Barking to Gospel Oak
- 22:22 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 23:13 Barking to Gospel Oak

At the height of the mayhem on what is supposed to be a 15 minute interval service there was a 45 minute gap between trains. Hundreds of passengers were unable to board the few trains that were running and were left behind on platforms, many having to find other ways to get home.

By coincidence, members of the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group's (BGORUG) Executive Committee were having a meeting at Barking Town Hall while the chaos reigned, many members being delayed in getting to the meeting. It was decided that if Transport for London (TfL) answered BGORUG's email requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the train shortage, sent a week ago, BGORUG would seek to explore with TfL ways that the peak-period service could be made more reliable, perhaps by withdrawing some off-peak services to give increased time to maintain the fleet of seven 2-carriage diesel trains.

BGORUG is also concerned that these seven trains are transferring to another train operator at the end of November, with no sign of the eight new 4-carriage electric trains that are to replace them, now eight months overdue, being delivered to London Overground.

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