

Rail Data Marketplace

Welcome to your round up of news related to the Rail Data Marketplace (RDM). If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, email us at raildatamarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com.

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Programme summary

As the year draws to a close and before we all head off for some time with family and friends, it is always a good opportunity to reflect on the year. Inevitably, there have been downs as well as ups through the year, but it definitely feels like RDM is ending on a high. Whilst our plan had been to deliver some functionality earlier than we actually did, we end the year with all of the key features of RDM in place and working, with usage surging.....and we were [runner-up in the OpenUK Awards](#) for the Data category.

The idea of a data marketplace has always seemed popular, but that enthusiasm has been difficult to quantify; however now with over 400 organisations and individuals registered on RDM, we have concrete evidence of the appetite amongst consumers for access to rail data. As of the start of December, RDM facilitates over 700 data sharing agreements between publishers and consumers. The rate of adoption gives us huge optimism for 2024. It is really rewarding for the team, and we hope for our long-time advocates and supporters, to see how RDM has been embraced by the sector.

The Network Rail Station footfall data has proved incredibly popular over the last month, and we have more new datasets which includes Northern, Southeastern Trains, South Western Railway, TransPennine Express, Avanti and Great Western Railways all of whom are publishing accessibility data. The ORR's origin destination matrix data has continued to be popular and after a number of requests by consumers, they are going to publish the historical ODM data back to pre-Covid, early in the New Year.

One of the most interesting recent additions (especially for any other regular users of the Lizzie Line) is the first publication by a TOC of train loading data on RDM. To be a little more formal, MTR Elizabeth Line has published their Class 345 Load weight data which they use as a proxy for train loading. This is a fascinating dataset which gives load weight at departure from each station on all of their services. I am confident this will provide the next-generation of passenger-facing apps with incredibly rich information. Could this have the twin benefits for MTR of both smoothing demand and increasing overall passenger numbers overall? Let's hope so.

BR Fares is the latest commercial organisation to publish chargeable datasets. Their Easy Fares API allows the simple presentation of data about fares between two stations into a passenger-facing application. The API includes the option to include railcard information, as well as validity and restriction information. The data is categorised for ease of use into walk-up fares, pay-as-you-go and restricted availability. There are a number of different pricing structures for the data dependent upon likely volumes of use. They also publish APIs for both season tickets and rovers & rangers. The complexity of fares is a challenging knot to untangle (and we know that GBRTT, RDG and others are working hard to do so), but in the meantime BR Fares is playing a part in simplifying choice for passengers.

I will wrap up this update with our best wishes to you and your loved ones for Christmas, and we look forward to continuing the journey in 2024.

Aspirations for the Rail Data Marketplace

Whilst it has felt like a long and at times arduous journey to bring the RDM to life over the last 30 months, friend of the project Richard Rowson from F17 has a significantly longer perspective on the concept. His blog on the subject makes for interesting reading and will, I am sure, make those who have been struggling with rail data for many years smile at the memories. Read Richard's blog here [Aspirations for the Rail Data Marketplace - Rail Data Marketplace](#)

RSSB creates a new metadata standard

RSSB has long been an advocate for better use of data in the sector. Over the last six months, they have commissioned work into 'Identifying metadata to support confident use of data in a data-driven railway'. This new standard is a comprehensive framework for metadata which will allow data to be more easily understood and used across the industry and beyond. The full report can be found here <https://www.rssb.co.uk/research-catalogue/CatalogueItem/T1297>.

RDM largely meets the new standard, and we will undertake a detailed analysis to move the platform towards full compliance with the new RSSB standard. In other RSSB news, they have recently published their Safety Risk Model which is a quantified representation of the residual safety risks associated with running the railways.

Support over the festive period

The RDM Support Team is here to help over the festive period. We're providing a reduced support service from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024. Our service desk continues to be open and ongoing support is available, but it may take us a little longer than usual to reply.

If any problems occur, our priority is to respond to urgent issues that impact multiple users. We'll continue to address less urgent, isolated issues based on their priority.

We aim to respond to:

- urgent issues within 1 day
- non-urgent issues within 2 to 3 days
- requests within 5 days (for example, to publish data or register an account)
- emails within 5 days

While the team may be enjoying a few of the festivities, the core RDM platform continues to receive 24/7 monitoring and support.

If you do need assistance, please raise a support request in the normal way by [contacting RDM Support](#). If you're a registered user, you can sign in for additional support options.

Thank you for your patience while we manage requests during this time. The RDM Support service will return to normal on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

New data products this month

Data Product	Publisher
Easy Fares API (3 versions)	BR Fares Ltd
Rovers & Rangers API (3 versions)	BR Fares Ltd
Season Ticket Price API (3 versions)	BR Fares Ltd
Safety Risk Model	RSSB
GWR Fleet Accessibility	Great Western Railway
Southeastern Train Accessibility Information	Southeastern
Northern Trains Accessibility Data	Northern
Class 345 FLU Load Weight	MTR Elizabeth Line
SWR Fleet accessibility	South Western Railway
TransPennine Express Accessibility Facilities	TransPennine Express
Knowledgebase TOC data feed	RDG
Knowledgebase Ticket Restrictions	RDG
Knowledgebase Ticket Types	RDG
Knowledgebase Promotions data feed	RDG
Knowledgebase National Service indicator	RDG
Knowledgebase Incidents data feed	RDG