

## Helping to keep the trains running during the lockdown

Network Rail have been a customer of UES for more than 10 yrs, drawing on our mechanical and electrical engineering expertise. During this time we have responded to numerous emergency call-outs, including heating breakdowns, plumbing faults and air conditioning problems. So when they experienced major fuel pump issues at a site in Cardiff, they picked up the phone to us...



### The Challenge

The 2020 coronavirus lockdown had just begun, so tensions were running high. The trains were still meant to be running, but there was a problem in Cardiff. The fuel pumps were not pulling fuel through to the filling points. The timing made it harder to get a fix due to the lockdown and it being a Sunday. But UES were still offering critical business emergency call-outs, so we promptly dispatched an engineer to check out the problem.



### The Solution

When we arrived, we could see that the pumps were still running but did not seem to be drawing enough power to pull the fuel through. On examination, we discovered that the dip tubes in the main tank had failed and were not generating suction.

It was too complex a job to fix there and then, but we were keen not to leave Cardiff Canton without any fuel supply. Therefore we managed to hook up a temporary supply using a hose to one of the pumps while we devised a permanent solution.

We returned the following day to clean and repair the tubes and valves at the bottom of their enormous commercial tank. Welding was also required to a split in one of the fuel pumps.



### The Impact

There is never a good time for the fuel to stop flowing on a rail network. But with the lockdown bringing heightened financial pressures to organisations and restrictions to movement, this had the potential to be particularly challenging. Fortunately, UES's expertise and flexibility were on hand to provide a speedy solution. The trains were kept up and running with no disruption to service and no loss of business.

