

The History of DMU vehicle E59387

E59387 in BR Service

Class 108 vehicle E59387 was ordered from British Railways, Litchurch Lane Works, Derby on 29th November 1957. It was part of lot number 30493, which comprised of vehicles E59386 to E59390.

The vehicle is a trailer car of type TSL (Trailer Second Lavatory), indicating it is a trailer vehicle with second-class seating and a toilet compartment.

On completion, E59387 was initially coupled between DMBS (Driving Motor Brake Second) vehicle E50621 and DMCL (Driving Motor Composite Lavatory) vehicle E50643, and allocated to Springhead, Hull (53C) depot on 28th October 1958. Its livery on delivery was BR Green with cream lining, later being painted Blue (date unknown), White with Blue Band (by January 1977) and Blue and Grey (by April 1981).

The vehicle had a nomadic existence and subsequently it was reallocated to Hull Botanic Gardens (53B) on 30th November 1958, Bradford Hammerton Street (56G) December 1958 (on loan), Darlington (51A) March 1960, Hull Botanic Gardens (50C) October 1961 (on loan), Darlington (51A) December 1961, Derby (16C) October 1963 (on loan), Darlington (51A) December 1963, South Gosforth (52J) January 1964, Darlington (51A) February 1964, South Gosforth (52J) December 1964, Darlington (51A) February 1965, Hamilton (66C) February 1966, Corkerhill, Glasgow (67A) March 1967, Hamilton (66C) May 1968, Leeds Neville Hill (55H) 23rd June 1968 (on loan, made permanent July 1968), South Gosforth (52J, later GF) November 1970 and Leeds Neville Hill (NL) November 1976.

During part of the 1970s, the vehicle ran as part of four car set N421, being formed as E50632 + E59387 + E59246 + E50643. By April 1981, the vehicle had been refurbished.

Further reallocations took E59387 to Newton Heath (NH) 23rd June 1982, Buxton (BX) August 1984, Tyseley (TS) 29th March 1987, Eastfield, Glasgow (ED) 25th October 1987 in set 108 383 which also included vehicle 51566, Haymarket (HA) July 1988, Leeds Neville Hill (NL) 14th May 1989, Longsight, Manchester (LO) 13th October 1990, Canton, Cardiff (CF) 7th September 1991 before finally moving to Laira, Plymouth (LA) July 1992.

E59387 was finally withdrawn from service 10th November 1992 and sold for preservation, the vehicle moving to Peak Rail, Darley Dale about April 1993.

It was later sold to the Dean Forest Railway (DMU Group), but was first moved to the Midland Railway Centre, Butterley in August 2008 for contract repairs.

Some of the work contracted included the fitting of overhauled bogies and a new interior ceiling.

E59387 in DFR Service

E59387 arrived at Lydney on 11th August 2009 following which the vehicle underwent a general refurbishment prior to a launch into traffic. As part of this work, the roof water tanks and the toilet were removed as the DFR do not require these in service.

The vehicle was used in traffic for the first time on the DFR as part of their Railcar day on June 16th 2012. As partner M51566 was still under restoration, the vehicle was used in a mixed four-car formation consisting of M51914, E59387, E50619 & M56492.

In 2014, E59387 was formed into an accurate 3-car set with E50619 & M51566 after restoration of the latter was completed.

Over the past few years, E59387 has been in regular service whenever the DFR required the use of a 3-car set in service. In 2020 the vehicle was withdrawn from service to allow some essential maintenance to be undertaken, re-entering service in 2022.

E59387 is unique in being the only Class 108 TSL (Trailer Second Lavatory) vehicle in existence.