

# TravelWatch NORTHWEST

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***Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport (2013)***

***promoting quality public transport.....***

Andrew Stephenson  
 Minister of State for Transport,  
 Department for Transport  
 Great Minster House  
 33 Horseferry Road  
 London  
 SW1P 4DR

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Minister of State,

## **HS2 Phase 2A West Midlands to Crewe Consultation**

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW) is an independent Community Interest Company representing all public transport users in North West England. We are pleased to give our views as follows to this call for evidence, in respect of our region. We confine our views to the new platform at Crewe station, future train services and released capacity.

### **New Platform at Crewe station.**

Crewe is a major interchange and must have direct HS2 services. It is an important hub for services to many parts, i.e. further North, Merseyside, Manchester, North Wales, the Welsh border area and the Potteries. Local and regional services need to be sufficient to provide seamless connections from HS2 services to the many areas served from Crewe, some of which have very poor levels of service at present. Prime examples are Merseyside, Manchester Airport, Chester and North Wales.

We note that Network Rail is evaluating the possibility of reinstating platform 13 for the Cardiff to Manchester services rather than a new island platform on the independent lines, as part of its renewal plans in the area. In our view this would be a more acceptable outcome as it would be less remote from the rest of the station than the new island platform and therefore much more convenient for passengers.

**Future train services and released capacity on the WCML.**

We look forward to consultation on future phase 1 and phase 2 service patterns and also future WCML train service patterns.

In respect of released capacity we welcome “the aim that, wherever it is feasible, all places with a direct London service will retain a broadly comparable or better service after HS2 Phases One and 2a open”. We have previously expressed concern that Penrith, Oxenholme, Warrington Bank Quay, Stockport and Wilmslow stations could lose their through services and that passengers would be forced to change trains when taking journeys to/from London. These important stations and their communities deserve a better service to the capital not worse.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,

*John A Moorhouse*

John Moorhouse  
Company Secretary