

The North West Public Transport Users Forum

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PROMOTING QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

NEWS RELEASE

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SAVE OUR SAVERS

The North West Public Transport Users Forum today urged Government not to abolish Saver Tickets for train journeys.

Chairman, Brendan O’Friel said, “Saver tickets offer passengers an affordable and convenient “turn up and go” fare for train journeys that can be purchased on the day of travel at stations for travelling in off peak periods. Full fares can be 3 times as high and if Savers are abolished train passengers may face massive increases in the cost of fares or having to purchase another ticket when changing to trains operated by another company. Either way the passenger is the financial loser. ”

The Department of Transport is thought to be considering abolishing Saver Tickets and allowing train companies to set their own tariffs for fares. At the moment passengers can buy one Saver ticket for the whole of their journey but if they are abolished then a full fare purchase may be necessary or re-purchase of tickets at each change of train.

Mr O’Friel added, “There is an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in a total review of how fares are offered to the public. At the moment it is very confusing and we call for a more modern, convenient and attractive pricing structure that will encourage greater useage of trains as an alternative to car travel. There are many ideas we would like to promote, one of which is a National Rail Card offering discounted travel for regular users. Students and Senior Citizens can get them so why not those in their “middle years? Surely these are the people who could be attracted back to the trains.”

NWPTUF agreed to press government to lead a fares review rather than abolish one of the most popular tickets available to the public.

ENDS

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