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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

Wednesday, 17 August 2011

Cuts to Bus Services Feared

TravelWatch North West, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England, is concerned about the likelihood of further cuts to bus services in the North West. TWNW welcomes a recent report of the House of Commons Transport Committee* which comments on the effects of extensive cuts to rural, evening and weekend bus services following the Governments Spending Review.

TWNW Chair Chris Dale said “The government is set to cut Bus Service Operators Grant (a scheme that refunds some of the fuel duty incurred by bus operators) by 20% from 2012/13. This, coupled with local authority spending cuts, could result in a further round of service reductions with very serious effects especially for those in the more rural areas of our region where bus services are already sparse, but are relied upon by a significant number of people without access to a car.”

“We trust that full consultation will be held with bus users and representative organisations before any such cuts are made and that alternatives such as the use of Community Transport and taxibuses are fully considered.”

ENDS

*** *Bus Services after the Spending Review – Eighth Report of the House of Commons Transport Committee – 11 August 2011***

Further information: - Chris Dale, Chair, TWNW - 07948 551809

- John Moorhouse, Co Sec, TWNW - 07989 515175