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

## **NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **Disappointment at December 2022 rail timetable plans**

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in North West England, is disappointed at plans for train services for December 2022, following measures to ease congestion on the Castlefield rail corridor through Central Manchester.

Back in March we advocated a mix of services on this corridor which would have helped to ease the problem. Unfortunately, it appears that the solution postulated by the rail industry has a tendency to treat each line of route as a separate entity but this will result in longer journeys, long waits and lost connections at key interchange stations.

Other downsides include –

#The last train of the day between Manchester and Lancaster/ Furness will leave earlier, ruining opportunities to enjoy a night out in the City.

#The expensively built Ordsall Chord, linking Victoria and Piccadilly, will have just one train an hour. We had suggested an additional hourly service from Rochdale and the Calder Valley to Manchester Airport via this route.

#We understand that Wigan will lose its fast service to Central Manchester and Manchester Airport.

TWNW will be responding to consultation on these service patterns and will endeavour to obtain the best possible outcomes for passengers.

**ENDS**

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