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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

Friday, 2nd March

New electric trains between Manchester and Scotland

TravelWatch North West, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England, welcomes the recent announcement by First TransPennine Express for a new fleet of electric trains to run between Manchester and Scotland.

Services currently on this route suffer from overcrowding over long distances and the new trains will give additional capacity.

Chris Dale, TWNW Chair, said “Proper attention should be given to the internal layout of the trains to ensure high standards of passenger comfort and plenty of luggage space for these relatively long journeys. For example the plan is for the trains to have just three toilets in each 4 car train. We think this is insufficient and there should be four - one in each coach.”

We have long advocated that Liverpool, which often appears to be the poor relation of Manchester, should also be linked with Scotland by through train services and it is regrettable that this order does not include any provision for that.

ENDS

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