

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

promoting quality public transport.....

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Good news for rail passengers in the North West.

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, gives a general welcome to today's government announcement about the new franchises for Northern and TransPennine rail services from April 2016.

We look forward to working closely with the new operators – Arriva who will run the Northern franchise and First (the current operator) TransPennine. The unpopular Pacer trains will go and the North is promised new trains, services and more capacity to cope with increasing numbers of passengers, alleviating the overcrowding now regularly seen. Chairman Chris Dale said “This is very good news and TWNW will be proactive in ensuring that the promises are fulfilled. It is especially pleasing that the number of new trains for Northern will be more than double the minimum required in the government's invitation to tender.”

Increased number of services on many lines is good news especially in Cumbria where new high-quality 'Northern Connect' services, meaning new or refurbished trains on longer-distance services, will run. It is disappointing though that it appears the Settle – Carlisle line will not benefit from this brand.

ENDS

1. For further information contact Chris Dale on 07948 551809 or John Moorhouse on 07807 768124.