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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

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8% Increase in Rail Fares is bad news for the North West

The recent announcement that rail fares will increase by around 8% next January is bad news for rail travellers in the North West says TravelWatch North West, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England.

TWNW Chair Chris Dale said “At a time when people are struggling to make ends meet with rising costs and static income, these increases will not encourage people to leave the car at home and use public transport. Recent investment and improvements to rail services in the NW have not been significant and we still run trains that have the highest average age in the country. Some are 25 years old and look like it. ”

“This news follows hard on the heels of the announcement that the North West is to receive a handful of second hand trains discarded from other parts of the country. Whilst these will provide a little more capacity to help relieve some of the chronic overcrowding that passengers experience daily, they are only a temporary fix and our passengers will be far from impressed.”

TWNW notes and welcomes that fares on Merseyrail, will have a much lower rate of increase due to a decision by Merseytravel, the passenger transport executive which manages the franchise. Why can't this apply elsewhere in the region?

ENDS

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