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NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 10th AUGUST 2017

Rail passengers in the North left behind again.

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, has written to Chris Grayling the Secretary of State for Transport deploring the scrapping of rail electrification and threats to rail investment in our region.

At a time when investment in Cross Rail 2 in London has been announced, it appears that the government's attitude to favour the South over the North still exists in earnest.

Spending on transport per head of population is only about one third than is the case in London and this ratio is set to get worse. Chris Dale, Chairman of TWNW said, "Many passengers are discouraged from travelling because of severe overcrowding. More track capacity and more, not less, electrification is urgently needed. The Northern Hub investment is vital to improve connectivity and we have always maintained that its scope should be reviewed to ensure capacity improvements are fully maximised. This lop-sided spending by government in favour of the population of London is both unfair and a disgrace. The Northern Powerhouse scheme appears to be in disarray."

ENDS

Letter to Chris Grayling MP attached.

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