

promoting quality public transport.....

4th June 2010

News Release - Immediate

Cuts to train carriage procurement programme potentially bad news for rail passengers in the North West

Today's announcement by Transport Secretary Philip Hammond that the train carriage procurement is to be reappraised is a blow for long suffering rail passengers in the North West.

Whatever the situation in the South East, which appears to receive the Department for Transport's predominant attention, rail travel continues to grow in the NW and overcrowding is a major problem.

Numerous examples of excessive overcrowding on inadequate trains have been witnessed in all parts of the region as passenger numbers have grown as well as many incidents of passengers being left on stations because trains are so full.

TravelWatch NorthWest Chair, Chris Dale, said "things are going from bad to worse – I understand that there are more overcrowded trains in our region than anywhere else in the UK and potential passengers are already being discouraged from travelling at busy times because of overcrowding. The DfT appears to be completely out of touch with passengers' needs in the North West. "

"We will continue to campaign for a fairer deal for our region and at the very least Northern Rail should continue to receive additional trains that have been promised."

ENDS

Further information from Chris Dale (07948 551809) or John Moorhouse (07989 515175).