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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

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Help for rail passengers in Chancellor's Autumn statement

TravelWatch North West, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England, welcomes measures announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, in his Autumn statement which will help rail passengers.

The decision to cut regulated fares increases from RPI plus 3% to RPI plus 1% is good news for commuters and other rail passengers who are already paying high prices for their journeys and many of whom suffer chronic overcrowding on their daily journeys.

We also welcome the decision to electrify the TransPennine line between Manchester and Yorkshire and the journey time savings and other benefits this will bring to rail passengers. However this must be extended beyond Leeds to York so that electric trains can run throughout between Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, York and Newcastle. (The line between Manchester and Liverpool is already scheduled to be electrified).

ENDS

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