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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

Tuesday, 14th August 2012

Rail fares increases are unacceptable.

TravelWatch NorthWest, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England, deplores today's announcement that rail fares will increase by an average of 6.2% from next January. This means that some fares could rise even higher than that. To add insult to injury a similar increase will be exacted in January 2014.

Chris Dale, Chair TWNW, said "this is a bitter blow for long suffering rail users in the North West, many of whom are still riding around in over 20 year old trains and have yet to see the benefits of future investment in rail. Yet fares in Scotland are being limited to a 4.2% increase – this appears to be discriminatory to the ordinary passenger."

"With the economy in the doldrums this is bad news for passengers and does nothing to persuade people to leave their cars at home and benefit the environment. The government should think again."

One small comfort is that on Merseyrail the increase will be less than this owing to the enlightened approach of Merseytravel who determine rail fares on that network.

ENDS

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