

Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport
promoting quality public transport.....

NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 27th FEBRUARY 2015

Good news for rail passengers in the North West.

TravelWatch NorthWest, the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, gives a general welcome to today's government announcement about the new franchises for Northern and TransPennine rail services.

At last an end to the unpopular Pacer trains and their replacement with new Diesel trains is promised – a cause that we have championed persistently. Chairman Chris Dale said "We know there will be an increasing number of electrically operated trains in the region. However, given the present overcrowding, untapped demand and likely growth in the future we urge that the number of new trains is not restricted to the 120 new carriages stipulated as a minimum in the government's announcement."

There is other good news as well including more frequent services on many lines (including on Sundays) and improvements to stations. We do though have concerns about maintaining frequency and quality on the lines to Barrow and Windermere which will be transferred from the TransPennine franchise to the Northern franchise. We are also disappointed that there was not a more binding statement on linking Liverpool directly with Scotland.

ENDS

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