

TravelWatch NORTHWEST

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Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport

promoting quality public transport.....

Sally Kendall,
 Department for Transport
 3/27 Great Minster House
 33 Horseferry Road
 London
 SW1P 4DR

27th May 2016

Dear Sally,

ROAD WORKS: REDUCING DISRUPTION ON LOCAL “A” ROADS

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW) is an independent Community Interest Company representing all public transport users in North West England.

We believe that reducing roadwork disruption is very important, especially as bus passengers are vital road users. The consultation only seems to cover Local Authority managed A roads – we think that it should cover all trunk roads too and indeed all roads.

We maintain that there is a need for much better dialogue amongst the various agencies, including agreement on a maximum number of preplanned works over specific sections of road (this would vary depending on the nature/length of each work site) to ensure minimum delays.

We support the principal of charging whoever is responsible for the roadworks and indeed ideally would like to see a specific payment to the operator of each bus going through the roadworks. To give examples - a bus service into Skipton has been withdrawn due to a lengthy diversion; six sets of roadworks have delayed the 580/581 (Skipton – Settle – Kirkby Lonsdale) recently; 17 more buses are needed to run services in Manchester due to roadwork delays.

Communication is a key aspect. Also planning in liaison with rail engineering works is essential. Too often major road works are scheduled at the same time as rail line blockades and it is clear that no dialogue exists between both responsible parties. Highway authorities often fail to notify local businesses in advance of planned roadworks merely relying on erecting a road sign to notify drivers at the site of the works. Often these signs are old and in a poor state so a full spread of information is not achieved until the diggers turn up,

sometimes leaving businesses isolated from their customers for the duration. Highways Authorities need to "up their game" with this.

Should you wish us to enlarge on our responses either in writing or verbally we will be glad to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond

Yours sincerely

John A Moorhouse

John Moorhouse
Company Secretary