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NEWS RELEASE - Immediate

Wednesday, 14th August 2013

Rail fares increases are to be deplored.

TravelWatch NorthWest, (TWNW), the independent passenger champion in North West England, takes a dim view of yesterday's announcement that regulated rail fares will increase by an average of 4.1% from next January. As this is an across the board increase fares on some lines could go up even more than this.

Chris Dale, Chair TWNW, said "once again, after several years of high increases, we see rail fares going up by more than the rate of inflation at a time when personal budgets are stretched. The benefits of new investment have largely yet to be seen in the NorthWest yet passengers will be obliged to pay over the odds in advance of improvements to trains and stations. The increase does nothing to encourage people to leave their cars at home and use a more environmentally friendly means of transport".

TWNW notes and welcomes that fares on Merseyrail, will have a lower rate of increase due to a decision by Merseytravel, the transport authority which manages the franchise. Why can't this apply elsewhere in the region?

ENDS

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