

promoting quality public transport.....

John Bengough
Rail International & Safety Policy
Department for Transport
Zone 3/17 Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

26th April 2013

Dear Mr Bengough,

Handling of Exemptions from Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations

TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent Community Interest Company representing all public transport users in NW England. We give our brief comments on this consultation below.

Question 1

We have no objection in principle to exemptions from RVAR being granted administratively rather than by statutory instrument. We note that consultation will continue to be carried out. TravelWatch NorthWest would very much wish to be included in such consultation in so far as NW England is concerned.

Question 2

The Department believes that “setting out the information required for each application in the Application Regulations is excessive”. We have not investigated this in detail but would not wish to see any consideration of applications which do not bring with them full details of the reasons for the application.

We wish to make an important overall point. There is an extensive fleet of elderly trains in the North West (principally Pacers) which does not meet full accessibility standards. This change to procedure must not make it easier to extend the life of such rail passenger vehicles which are passenger unfriendly and already overdue for replacement.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Yours faithfully,

John A Moorhouse

John Moorhouse, Company Secretary