TravelWatch
NORTHWEST

Winner of CILT award for best practice in passenger transport

promoting quality public transport..........

NEWS RELEASE - Imminent – 4th March 2014

TRANS PENNINE EXPRESS TRAIN FLEET CUT TO PROVIDE TRAINS FOR SOUTH

TransPennine Express train fleet will be cut by 13% in 2015 when 9 of its 70 train units will be moved to the South of England to run for Chiltern Rail in the London and Home Counties region.

Labelling the move as "crazy and scandalous", John Owen of TravelWatch North West said, "This is another example of a South East based government not caring a jot for train passengers in the North of England. Trans Pennine is already the most over-crowded train company in the UK and will now lose 13% of its train units. And the stupid part of it is that the decision appears to have been made by the Dept. for Transport in cahoots with the train leasing company. First Group - the TPE operator - doesn't seem to have had a say in the matter."

The trains being transferred are currently used mostly on the Manchester – Leeds - Hull routes and will not be replaced. Plans to strengthen train capacity on the Manchester - Leeds corridor look like they will have to be scrapped and timetable planners will have to go back to the drawing board. There would seem to be little scope to relieve the massive over-crowding being experienced on all TPE routes at all times of day.

"The North loses again," added Mr. Owen, "and rail passengers here can look forward to continuing over-crowding misery for the foreseeable future."

Trans Pennine Express runs train services throughout the North of England and to Edinburgh & Glasgow, carrying 26 million passengers per year, and having doubled its passenger numbers since the commencement of its franchise in 2003. ***ENDS***

Notes –

1. TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent Community Interest Company representing all public transport users in NW England.

2. For further information contact John Owen - 01539 563595 or 07974 713482, Chris Dale – 07948 551809 or John Moorhouse - 07807 768124.