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NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 24th FEBRUARY 2022

Recovery funding for the bus industry must be extended

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in NW England, strongly urges a continuation of support for the bus industry in its recovery from Covid. TWNW understands that withdrawal of this funding is envisaged at the end of March.

It is rural areas which are particularly hard hit when cuts are made to funding and we are particularly concerned about these vital, though sadly run down, links which help the many people who have no access to private transport to get to jobs, education, healthcare and shops. Another area of vulnerability to bus cuts is early morning, evening and weekend services in all areas which are essential for the many people in low paid jobs, often with variable, unsocial working hours.

Promised funding from the government to regenerate bus services has already been watered down and cessation of this recovery support will further exacerbate the situation. We understand that the government is at least considering an extension to the recovery funding and we fervently hope that the Treasury does not dash expectations.

ENDS

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