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NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE 24th October 2022

Train Services still at a nadir

TravelWatch NorthWest (TWNW), the independent Community Interest Company representing users of all forms of public transport in North West England, continues to be extremely frustrated at the continuing catalogue of service cuts and cancellations affecting our train services in the North West.

At its recent Annual General Meeting, TWNW Chairman David Butterworth told members that it was disappointing to note that in many parts of our region train services could not be relied upon to be punctual or even to exist at all. Avanti West Coast services are a shadow of their former selves and TransPennine Express trains run to a timetable which often shows little relationship with the official one. Whereas Northern Trains services have been shown to be generally existent and punctual, more recent experience has shown that as a result of serious under-staffing at key times many trains have failed to turn up when urgently required.

A particular issue which causes massive upheaval is the continuing reliance of train staff being willing to work on Sundays. For example a 14 trains per Sunday on the Clitheroe Line to be reduced to a mere six is indefensible. Poor performance of this type significantly hits what was becoming a healthy post-Covid passenger base.

As we have said before there may be no easy short term solution but those with the ultimate responsibility, beyond the operators, must be seen to be giving the whole dysfunctional mess urgent attention and assurances of a return to normality, as speedily as possible

ENDS

For further information contact John Moorhouse on 07807 768124.