



Inflation figures highlight rail fares rip-off

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January's inflation figures have highlighted the unfairness of recent rail fare rises. The figure for CPI is just 1.9%, whereas the figure for RPI, which is used to set rail fares, is 2.8%. "So in the real world, prices are going up by just 1.9%, and, if they're lucky, people will be getting wage or pension increases based on that figure" said Bruce Williamson from the campaign group Railfuture "Compare that to the recent rail fare rises of 3.1%. That is a massive difference, and the government cannot justify continuing to set rail fares on the higher RPI figure. The government routinely claims that CPI is its preferred measure of inflation, so why won't it use CPI for rail fare increases?"

"What's more, these differences get compounded year-on-year, meaning that in real terms rail fares are much more expensive than they were ten years ago, making a much less affordable for ordinary people. This is why Railfuture will continue to call for fares to be based on CPI. Having the most expensive rail fares in Europe is not something to be proud of"

Notes to editors:

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: www.railfuture.org.uk

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For further information and comment please contact:

Bruce Williamson, media spokesman
Tel: 0117 927 2954 Mobile: 07759 557389
media@railfuture.org.uk