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PRESS RELEASE

27 November 2011

RAIL CAMPAIGNERS WELCOME NEWS ON FARES INCREASE

Rail campaigners have welcomed news that the Chancellor won't be imposing inflation busting fare increases on rail passengers. "It's a welcome early Christmas present for rail travellers in England" said Jerry Alderson, vice chairman of *Railfuture*. "The government has recognised the vital role that the railways play in sustaining the economy of this country and realises that it would have been counter-productive to price people off the railway."

"Nonetheless, we still have some of the most expensive fares in Europe, and these rises will be ahead of inflation. Few people will be enjoying inflation busting income" he said.

"Rail use has continued to grow despite the recession so it's important to keep investment going" said Jerry "If this government is to live up to its claim of being the greenest government ever, then it must make rail attractive. That means affordable fares and enough capacity for all the business on offer."

"There is also the question of what happens in subsequent years. Will the government abandon the planned increases at 3% above inflation for 2013 and 2014?"

Notes for editors:

Railfuture is the campaigning name of the Railway Development Society Ltd (a not for profit) Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 5011634. Reg. Office: 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND

Railfuture is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

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