

Stalybridge to Huddersfield Rail Users Group

8 Harrop Green,
Diggle,
Oldham,
OL3 5LW
8th January, 2015
Tel. [redacted]

Dear Lord Adonis,

Below are extracts from letters we have written today to John Cridland, the Chair of Transport for the North and to Louise Ellman the Chair of the Parliamentary Transport Committee.

'The Stalybridge to Huddersfield Rail User Group (SHRUG) is the umbrella group for the three Rail Groups representing the users at the four stations between Huddersfield and Stalybridge on the trans-Pennine Diggle/Stanedge Route namely Slaithwaite, Marsden, Greenfield and Mossley. We are of course therefore concerned with issues at Manchester Piccadilly & Victoria, Stalybridge and Leeds

Currently there is just one local stopping train per hour (tph) with some extra trains in the morning and evening peaks. The number of passengers (Office of Rail Regulation figures) indicate there should be 3 tph, not just 2tph for passengers using the four local stations.

We made additional points:

- An assurance that train company staff will be aware of the rights of passengers to claim for late and cancelled trains as highlighted in the national press on 21st December, 2015 in a report from 'Which?'*
- The importance of connectivity with buses needs to be much more acknowledged. At Wakefield Westgate there are now indicator boards giving real-time bus details and we would like to see this at selected stations.*
- We welcome the proposal for Transport for Greater Manchester to take over responsibility for stations within Greater Manchester and wish to see it happen in the near quickly. There is current confusion with the responsibility for stations diffused over providers.*

To conclude, as indicated in the opening remarks to the two recipients, SHRUG is pleased with many features which are envisaged in the new franchises. We are concerned to ensure that the points made in the ITT documents are met, as we are sure are you, and we look forward to working with rail authorities in both the short and long term.'

Royce Franklin,
Secretary of the Stalybridge Huddersfield Rail Users' Group.