

Train companies respond to ORR report on rail finances

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Responding to the Office of Rail Regulation Report '[GB rail financial information 2011-12](#)' Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of the Association of Train Operating Companies, said:

"Passengers and taxpayers are benefiting from a booming railway that is delivering better value for money.

"The railways are relying on less taxpayer support and a lower level of revenue per journey as train companies succeed in encouraging more passengers to travel by train. Train companies have reduced their unit costs in real terms, playing their part along with industry partners and Government in improving rail's efficiency.

"The Government's recent steps to get franchising back on track, recognising the private sector's role in delivering a successful railway, will help ensure the industry can continue to provide the best possible deal for passengers and taxpayers."

Notes to editors:

According to the ORR's report, in 2011-12:

Rail journeys – increased by 7.2 per cent compared to 2010-11 (p4, para 4)

Government funding – decreased by 5.4% in real terms (p4, para 5)

Train operators' costs decreased by 2.1% taking into account inflation and passenger growth (p12, para 22)

Industry expenditure – decreased by 2.1% in real terms (p5, para 7)

Average revenue per journey - was £4.93, a decrease of 3.6% in real terms (p10, para 17).

Since 2004, Government policy has been to increase the average cost of a season ticket by above the rate of inflation every year; operators have attracted people to travel by train by offering Off-Peak tickets, good value Advance fares and Railcard savings.

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