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One way rail tickets mustn't be as expensive as a return, says Government in fares shakeup



Cheaper: the Government will announce a new 'mix and match' plan

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STAFF/AGENCY

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Rail passengers are likely to see the cost of single-journey fares decreased, as the Government announces a "mix and match" plan for long-distance journeys.

Rail passengers could see an end to single-journey fares costing almost as much as return tickets under plans announced by the Government today.

Currently the Government regulates the price of off-peak return fares, meaning train operating companies are able to price other tickets - including off-peak singles - more freely.

But rail minister Norman Baker has announced plans for a pilot scheme that could see all long-distance rail tickets sold on a

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single-leg basis and allow passengers to "mix and match" each ticket type when planning a return journey.

It means single tickets would cost roughly half the return fare - a shake-up on the current pricing structure in which there is sometimes little difference between the cost of the two ticket types.

Mr Baker said: "The Coalition Government is investing record amounts into transforming the railways, but alongside the massive infrastructure and rolling stock improvements it is vital passengers start to feel the benefit in their pockets.

"I am determined to end this confusing and frustrating system whereby the price of single fares for long-distance journeys can be similar to those of returns.

"Passengers need every confidence that the journeys they are paying for are the best deals in terms of convenience and money spent, and the launch of this pilot is proof of our determination to make that happen."

The Government said by regulating off-peak singles instead of returns, passengers would be able to choose the most appropriate ticket for each leg of their journey. It could also help tackle crowding by giving passengers more choice over which service they travel on, it said.

Details of the pilot are yet to be confirmed, though it is likely to be launched in 2015.

A spokesman said the Department for Transport (DfT) said it will enter commercial negotiations with a long-distance operator to identify a suitable route for the pilot.



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[ollvbenson](#) 6 days ago

Weird as it may sound, the current ticket pricing system makes a lot of sense. You may not realise it, but most transport systems you are paying for a return journey. When you get in a taxi you are effectively paying the return fare (if you don't believe me, ask a taxi driver to drive you somewhere and drive you back again; most taxi drivers will knock the fare down). Essentially, the taxi has to get back to where it came from, whether or not you were in it. It's the same with trains. The train has to return to where it came from whether you are on it or not. The *actual* cost of you being on the train is minimal. Of course, someone else may be making the exact journey and balance the cost out. In reality there are big imbalances in journey demand - there are lots of empty trains heading away from London during the AM peak, and lots of empty trains heading to the capital in the afternoon peak. So charging almost the same whether you are heading one way or both directions reflects the reality of the cost of providing the service. But never let the facts get in the way of a cheap political announcement...

[1 reply](#) -1



[Anonymous](#) 3 days ago

Not London Taxies that just run round in circles taking in Oxford Street and Strand !

+1



[Anonymous](#) 6 days ago

So they'll ne doubling the price of the return fares now then :(

[1 reply](#) +1

[Bruno](#) 6 days ago

Never.

+1

[Anonymous](#) 6 days ago

This has always been 1 of those ridiculous anachronisms of the UK rail system. Nowhere else in the world I have ever been to (and I've travelled and lived overseas fairly extensively) do single rail fares cost as much as a return...

+1

tackles protester



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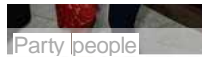


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