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## David Cameron's rail fares pledge may cost passengers more



Fares cap: David Cameron

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JOE MURPHY, POLITICAL EDITOR

**Gang thug faces life for murdering aspiring fashion designer who was stabbed 25 times**

David Cameron's pledge to cap next year's biggest rail fare increases came under fire today when it emerged that some passengers may end up paying more as a result.

The Government announced plans to reduce the maximum fare rise next year from 9.1 per cent to 6.1 per cent.

It could save some long-distance commuters more than £200 a year, according to the Department for Transport.

However, the department refused to say how much of the costs will be met by taxpayers and admitted that some costs could be "spread across the remaining fares basket".

Fare-setting rules are complex, but at their heart is a Government policy that the "basket" of regulated fares should rise by an average of 4.1 per cent next January.

That means that unless the taxpayer puts more money in, some fares must rise faster if others are reduced. Stephen Joseph, chief executive of the Campaign for Better Transport, said: "The announcement left untouched the concept of a basket of fares and that inevitably means that some fares will need to rise more than others.

"Unless the government addresses the real issue of inflationary fare rises, people on the ground will continue to feel they are not getting a fair deal."

Asked to confirm that some fares would rise by more, a

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Transport Department spokesman said: "The number of fares affected ... is relatively small but this is being offset by the cost to us and spread across the remaining fares basket."

He declined to say how would be met by the Treasury, adding: "We have to negotiate with train operating companies so giving you any figure will weaken our negotiation position."

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Cost taxpayers - fact is train companies are now paying more to DFT than they receive so rail users are in effect paying a Rail Tax !

Fact is most government money that goes to railways now goes to Network Rail for investment in network!

Ah well same old Cameron the wheels come off faster than it takes to bake a loaf of bread ,,

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**Bruno** 6 days ago

He's lucky to have enough dough to bake his own bread, unlike us plebs.

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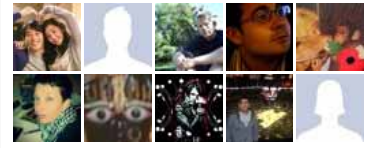


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