

MEDIA RELEASE

Merseyrail Fares Set to Remain Among Lowest in the UK

4 December 2015: Most rail fares in the UK will go up next year, but those on Merseyrail will continue to be among the cheapest in the country, and our passengers are the most satisfied in the UK with the price they pay for a ticket.

Highlights of the 2016 changes include:

- A family ticket will stay at £10 for the fifth year running
- One area Daysavers for both adults and children will remain at 2015 prices
- The maximum adult return price increase is 10p
- A new product for children has been launched: a monthly Railpass for 5-15 year olds

The cheapest return ticket on Merseyrail (between Sandhills and Liverpool) is £1.85 and the most expensive (between Chester and Southport) is £8.25.

In the last National Rail Passenger Survey (spring 2015), 68 per cent of people polled say that they get value for money for the price of a ticket. This is highest figure among all franchised operators and 23 percentage points above the national average.

Likewise, Merseyrail remains extremely popular with passengers, achieving 91 per cent in the last National Rail Passenger Survey. We are one of the top performers nationally and remain top among all regional operators. Our score was 11 percentage points above the national average, and an increase on our previous overall figure. At the National Rail Business awards earlier this year, we were named operator of the year.

Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde, Merseyrail's managing director, said: 'No one likes fare increases, but I'm sure our customers are well aware of their inevitability. All parties have worked hard to keep rises to a minimum, ensuring that our railway remains accessible and affordable to as many people as possible.'

Changes will take effect on Monday 4 January 2016. Our fare rises are pegged to inflation, as stipulated in the concession agreement between Merseytravel and Merseyrail.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- *Merseyrail carries ca 110,000 passengers per weekday*
- *Merseyrail scores for reliability and punctuality averaged over 95 per cent during the last 12 months*
- *We operate one of the most intensively used networks in the UK with more than 800 trains per weekday*
- *Merseyrail is a 50-50 joint venture between Serco and Abellio*
- *Merseytravel is the transport executive body and delivery arm of the city region's Combined Authority*
- *Network Rail is the owner and operator of most of the rail infrastructure in the UK*
- *For further information, contact Alice Owen on tel 0151 955 2131.*