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From: Railfuture Media <media@railfuture.org.uk>
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Subject: Rail passengers rewarded with yet another kick in the wallet

Categories: APTU

Rail passengers rewarded with yet another kick in the wallet

Rail fares go up by an average of 3.1% on 2nd January, despite 2018 being one of the worst years ever for punctuality. "After a terrible year of timetable chaos, passengers are being rewarded with yet another kick in the wallet" said Bruce Williamson from the campaign group Railfuture. "Since 2004, rail fares have raced ahead of people's incomes whilst the cost of motoring has remained static, partly thanks to the government's continuing freeze on fuel duty. Petrol is now cheaper than it was in 2011, when the last fuel duty increase kicked in. In that time, rail fares have gone up 28%. Are they trying to drive us off the railways? Why are hard-working commuters being punished for the "crime" of trying to get the train to work? It really is war against the train passenger."

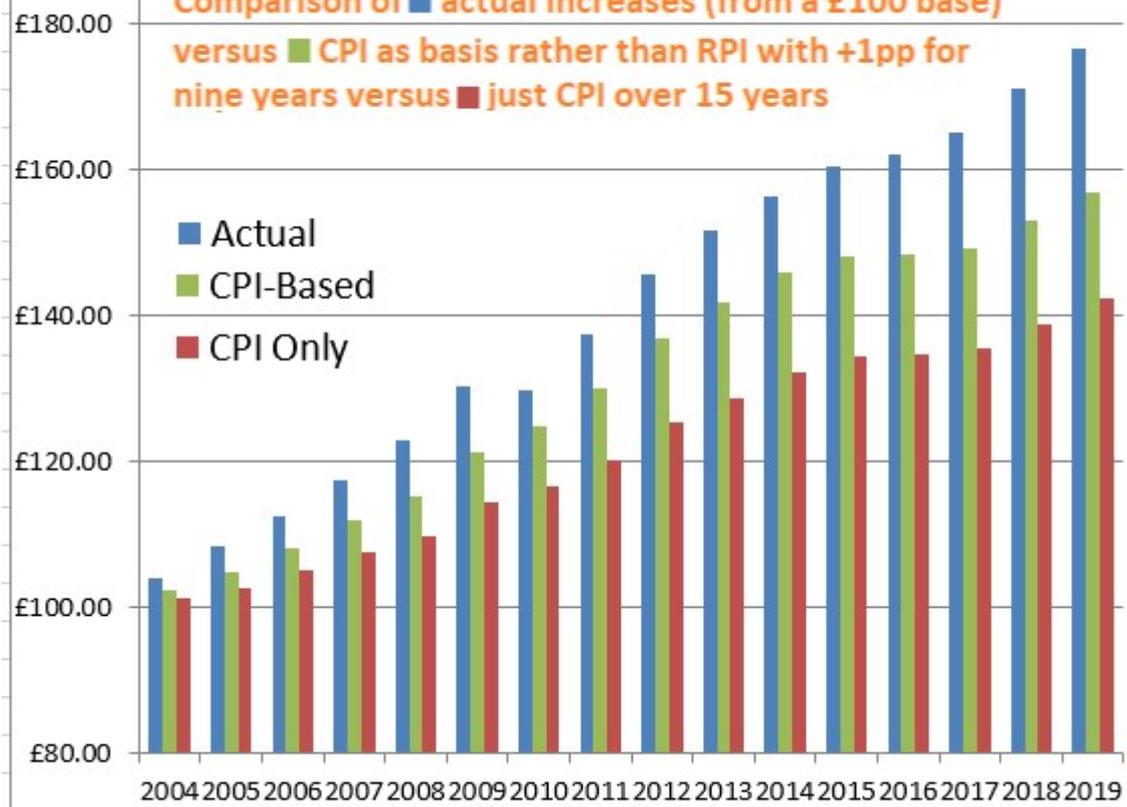
Rail fare increases are based on the Retail Price Index (RPI) rather than the government-preferred Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is usually lower.

"So why not use CPI? It's a very deliberate policy on the part of the government to make the most expensive walk-on fares in Europe even more expensive year on year. Rail passengers are paying the price for the government's inability to control industry costs. It's time that Chris Grayling got a grip: after all, if he's not the "fat controller", who is?"

The group has produced some figures comparing the effect of CPI v RPI on rail fares:

railfuture

Comparison of **actual increases (from a £100 base)** versus **CPI as basis rather than RPI with +1pp for nine years versus just CPI over 15 years**



The government has imposed RPI+1% fare rises between 2004 and 2013, and RPI since. These figures show the effect if the government had based rises on the standard CPI rather than the obsolete RPI.

It was RPI-1% between 1999 and 2003, and was RPI before that.

	RPI	CPI	Diff	Jan	Govt	Actual	£100.00		If CPI	£100.00
2003 JUL	3.1	1.3	1.8	2004	RPI+1%	4.1	£104.10	CPI+1%	2.3	£102.30
2004 JUL	3.0	1.4	1.6	2005	RPI+1%	4.0	£108.26	CPI+1%	2.4	£104.76
2005 JUL	2.9	2.3	0.6	2006	RPI+1%	3.9	£112.48	CPI+1%	3.3	£108.22
2006 JUL	3.3	2.4	0.9	2007	RPI+1%	4.3	£117.32	CPI+1%	3.4	£111.90
2007 JUL	3.8	1.9	1.9	2008	RPI+1%	4.8	£122.95	CPI+1%	2.9	£115.15
2008 JUL	5.0	4.4	0.6	2009	RPI+1%	6.0	£130.33	CPI+1%	5.4	£121.37
2009 JUL	-1.4	1.8	-3.2	2010	RPI+1%	-0.4	£129.81	CPI+1%	2.8	£124.77
2010 JUL	4.8	3.1	1.7	2011	RPI+1%	5.8	£137.34	CPI+1%	4.1	£129.89
2011 JUL	5.0	4.4	0.6	2012	RPI+1%	6.0	£145.58	CPI+1%	5.4	£136.90
2012 JUL	3.2	2.6	0.6	2013	RPI+1%	4.2	£151.69	CPI+1%	3.6	£141.83
2013 JUL	3.1	2.8	0.3	2014	RPI	3.1	£156.39	CPI	2.8	£145.80
2014 JUL	2.5	1.6	0.9	2015	RPI	2.5	£160.30	CPI	1.6	£148.13
2015 JUL	1.0	0.1	0.9	2016	RPI	1.0	£161.90	CPI	0.1	£148.28
2016 JUL	1.9	0.6	1.3	2017	RPI	1.9	£164.98	CPI	0.6	£149.17
2017 JUL	3.6	2.6	1.0	2018	RPI	3.6	£170.92	CPI	2.6	£153.05
2018 JUL	3.2	2.5	0.7	2019	RPI	3.2	£176.39	CPI	2.5	£156.88

From a £100 fare in 2003, using RPI as a basis rather than CPI has increased that fare by £19.51.

Note: figures apply to England (except Southeastern). In recent years Scotland and Wales may have differed.

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Notes to editors:

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Historic petrol prices are taken from www.petrolprices.com/the-price-of-fuel

28% increase in rail fares includes January 2019 increase:

£137.34 to £176.39 = 28.4% increase

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