



Friends of Eccles Station & Friends of Patricroft Station

PRESS RELEASE

Northern cuts trains and confuses passengers

10th May 2018

Until a few weeks ago Northern were planning to introduce an improved train service at Eccles and Patricroft Stations on 20th May. But the current timetables show there will now be fewer trains calling at Eccles and Patricroft from 20th May. And to confuse passengers further, the pattern of trains to and from different Manchester destinations makes little sense.

The Friends of Eccles Station (FRECCLES) and Patricroft Station (FrOPS) have made representation to Northern about this, since Salford is clearly being badly served relative to other stations on the Liverpool line. One reason given by Northern is that delays in the Manchester to Preston electrification have resulted in a shortage of diesel-powered trains. However, this seems a poor excuse for reducing the service and instituting a chaotic timetable on the Manchester to Liverpool line.

The new service agreed with the Department for Transport should have given Eccles 2 more trains per hour in weekday morning and evening peak periods, on top of the standard hourly service throughout the day. But not only are Northern not introducing the additional services that were originally planned for December 2017, they are cutting the existing weekday service by 2 trains to Manchester in the evening peak, and by 2 trains from Manchester in the morning peak. On Saturdays a total of 6 peak period trains will be withdrawn.

The planned service was to be hourly between both Eccles and Patricroft Stations and Manchester Piccadilly, with the additional peak period services running to and from Manchester Victoria. However, from 20th May, most trains will now run to and from Piccadilly, with some running to and from Victoria. Passengers will have to study the timetable carefully to find out where in Manchester their next train will start or terminate. There will also be a 3 hour gap in the early evening service to and from Piccadilly.

FRECCLES and FrOPS have not been given a convincing explanation by Northern of why existing trains have to be cut, and have called upon Northern to ensure that the Eccles and Patricroft rail service is not worsened on 20th May.

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