

Contemporary Motions 2012

The deadline for receipt of contemporary motions is 12 noon on Friday 21 September.

Details on how to submit them may be found at
<http://www.labouremail.org.uk/emails/9460/2/2816/1441/6611/d5887792e912ec682ba68db0d253a4f0/>

Britain's railways: bring them back into public ownership

Conference notes the worsening standard of services provided on Britain's railways at increasing cost to passengers and other taxpayers.

Conference notes in particular the publication on 2 August of a letter from Virgin Trains billionaire Richard Branson to the Transport Secretary and the Prime Minister warning that private firms seeking the West Coast Main Line franchise will have no option but to "drastically cut the quality of services".

In the long run such cuts would be detrimental to our whole environment and quality of life. In the short run the frequency and range of services, the affordability of fares, on-train catering and ticket-office staff are all put in jeopardy by the ConDem coalition's twin policies of austerity for the general public and profits for the private contractors.

Conference notes the coalition's subsequent 15 August announcement that the West Coast Main Line franchise is to be transferred from one private company to another, although details of the respective bids and their potential consequences for users and providers of the service are not available for public scrutiny.

Conference does not accept that Britain's passengers, rail-staff and other taxpayers should be forced to go on subsidising the greed of the private sector.

Conference therefore reaffirms its own long-standing policy that Britain's railways should be restored to public ownership as and when each existing contract expires.

Conference calls on Labour's leadership to announce without delay that Labour is now firmly committed to the implementation of this economically prudent and socially popular policy.

248 words (maximum 250 words)