

Rail fare rises under Tories are 'truly staggering' – Andy McDonald

Labour compared costs on over 180 routes between when the Conservatives came to power and the projected new prices that will be implemented this January 2018.

The average commuter will now be paying £2,888 for their season ticket, £694 more than in 2010.

New figures released today by Labour show:

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From January, some commuters will be paying over £2,500 more to travel to work than they were in 2010.

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The highest increase was on a Virgin Trains season ticket between Birmingham and London Euston which will have risen by £2,539 since 2010 and now costs £10,567.

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The biggest percentage increase identified was between Thame Bridge Parkway near Walsall and Nuneaton, where the cost of an annual season ticket will have risen by 48 per cent since 2010.

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In Theresa May's own constituency the cost of an annual season ticket from Maidenhead to London Paddington has risen by £736 since 2010.

Andy

McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State Transport, commenting on today's rail fare figures, said:

"The Tories' failure on our railways means passengers have faced truly staggering fare rises, some of over £2,500, since 2010 with fares having increased twice as much as wages.

"Commuters have repeatedly been told that higher fares are necessary to fund investment, but promised investment has been cancelled and essential works have been delayed for years.

“Decisions

taken by government Ministers are making rail travel unaffordable for the many in favour of huge profits for the few. By pegging regulated fares rises to the Retail Price Index, the Conservatives are leaving commuters facing year on year price hikes.

“The

truth is that our fragmented, privatised railway drives up costs and leaves passengers paying more for less. The railways need serious reform that could be achieved if the Tories matched Labour’s manifesto policy to extend public ownership to passenger services, but instead Ministers are persisting with a failed model of privatisation that is punishing passengers.”