

This is a slap in the face for commuters and businesses in the north-McDonald

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport

Secretary, commenting on Chris Grayling's comments that the full electrification of the Leeds to Manchester train line won't go ahead, said:

"This is a slap in the face for commuters and businesses in the North.

"Just six weeks ago the Tories promised the electrification of the Trans-Pennine route as an integral part of the government's 'Northern Powerhouse'.

"For years the Tories have promised electrification for the North, delivering faster, greener and more reliable services along with the significant economic benefits brought about by improved connectivity.

"The Tories have gone from Northern Powerhouse to Northern Powercut! Another broken promise from a Government that's hit the buffers.

"Chris Grayling had to be forced to come to parliament to give his HS2 statement and has sneaked this out in an interview after the Commons has risen.

"Voters won't be fooled by Grayling's claim that the same benefits will be realised without electrification.

"With our commitment to deliver a Crossrail for the North, it's clear only Labour has the ambition to transform the economies of the North of England for the many not the few."

Ends