



The Railway Forum

12 Grosvenor Place

London SW1X 7HH

Press Release

2 November 2005

Telephone: 020 7259 6543

Facsimile: 020 7259 6544

e-mail: railinfo@railwayforum.com

‘WE NEED A REAL DEBATE ABOUT TRANSPORT BASED ON FACT NOT ASSERTION’ SAYS FORUM

The Railway Forum is delighted to note that the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has upheld its complaints against the accuracy of the Transport Watch advertisements that appeared in both *Private Eye* and the *New Statesman* earlier this year.

All forms of transport in Britain face massive challenges. Overall there is a lack of transport capacity across the country and some very difficult decisions need to be taken if this is to be put right. However for Transport Watch to maintain that railways can simply be airbrushed out of the picture and turned into busways adds little, if any, value to the debate.

‘Rail, in all its forms, remains one of the most efficient and environmentally beneficial forms of transport’, says Adrian Lyons, Director General, The Railway Forum. ‘Very rapid passenger and transport growth on Britain’s railways demonstrates that it remains a key solution to Britain’s transport needs. There is absolutely no hard evidence to suggest that the wholesale conversion of railways

into roads, as advocated by Transport Watch, would provide a viable alternative solution and we therefore warmly welcome the Advertising Standards Authority's conclusions in this case.'

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

1. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies including Eurostar; also Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, London Underground, most of the infrastructure maintenance companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have over 50 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry.
2. To view the Advertising Standards Authority's judgement on the case visit: <http://www.asa.org.uk> (available to journalists under embargo). Transport Watch advertisements entitled *Have you the taxpayer been railroaded?* appeared in December 2004 and January 2005 editions of both *Private Eye* and the *New Statesman* respectively. Subsequent Transport Watch advertisements in these publications have been significantly amended as a result of the ASA's recommendations.

For more information call Adrian Lyons at The Railway Forum:

Tel: 020 7259 6543

Fax: 020 7259 6544

Mobile: 07775 992348

e-mail: railinfo@railwayforum.com