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The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

*Dear Patrick,*

Thank you for your reply of 19 November providing data on passenger demand and capacity on the West Coast Main Line. I would be grateful if you could further assist the Committee with the following questions which arise from the data.

1. How is passenger loading data for trains on the West Coast Main Line collected?
2. The Virgin Trains services from Manchester Piccadilly to London Euston which arrive in London Euston during the 3 hour morning peak are shown as having a 57% load-capacity ratio. How many of the 8,667 passengers on these services are long-distance passengers from the North-West as opposed to commuters from Rugby, Nuneaton, Milton Keynes and Watford Junction? What assessment has the Department made of whether the passenger growth in recent years on these services is as a result of commuter traffic or long-distance traffic travelling from Manchester and other stations in the north of England?
3. How many peak return tickets, both standard and first class, are sold on an average weekday for the following journeys:
  - a. Manchester Piccadilly to London Euston
  - b. Stockport to London Euston
4. How does the average load-capacity ratio of trains arriving in London Euston in the 3 hour morning peak vary across the working week (i.e. what are the load-capacity ratios for commuter and long-distance figures on each day of the week)?

I would be grateful for your response to this letter before you provide evidence to the Committee on 9 December.

*Chris Younger*

(Hollick)  
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee