

# Grayling's decision to wash his hands of the North's transport problems is a huge insult to commuters and businesses – Andy McDonald

**Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary,**

responding to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling's Yorkshire Post article on transport in the North, said:

"Grayling's decision to wash his hands of the North's transport problems is a huge insult to commuters and businesses.

"It's true that the North can play a larger role in determining and delivering its own transport priorities, but only if it's backed with funding from central government – an unlikely prospect while Chris Grayling holds the purse strings.

"The Tories have a track record of underinvestment and broken promises. London receives £1500 per person more in transport spending than the North, but far from addressing this disparity the Tories are making it worse by scrapping upgrades to the TransPennine route.

"Many people will be furious at being told they should 'take control' whilst the government pulls the plug on hundreds of millions of pounds worth of improvements to the region's rail links and presides over huge inequalities in transport spending between the North and South.

"The North needs its fair share of investment, not words of encouragement from Chris Grayling.

"That is why Labour has pledged to help transform the economies of the North, underpinned by a £10bn commitment for Crossrail for the North."

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