

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

18 February 2013

TramForward congratulates Paul Rowen on Passenger Focus appointment

TramForward is proud to learn that Mr Paul Rowen, a Director of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA), and an active member of its External Relations Group, is one of six new appointments to the board of Passenger Focus, the statutory passenger watchdog, that were recently announced by the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin

Paul Rowen was Liberal Democrat MP for Rochdale from 2005 to 2010 and, for much of this period, was Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group. Prior to his election to Parliament he had been a Rochdale Councillor since 1983. He was influential in bringing Manchester Metrolink to Rochdale and continues to campaign for the further development of the regional light rail system through his work with the LRTA.

Of the new appointees to Passenger focus, the Secretary of State said: "I am confident that the high calibre of these appointees will enhance the work of Passenger Focus, and that the breadth of their experience and expertise will ensure that the passengers' voice continues to be heard loud and clear in government and across the transport industry."

The Chairman of Passenger Focus, Colin Foxall, said: "The new board members offer a wealth of public and private sector experience which will help us in our mission to get the best deal for passengers. These appointments will help ensure Passenger Focus continues to be a strong consumer organisation, useful to industry and government, makes a difference for passengers and continues to offer value for money for the taxpayer."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.
2. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs under 12p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRTA receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport sites.

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