I travel from Bolton to Manchester Oxford Road daily around 7.20 to get to work. I have done this for 15 years and it has always been a horrid journey due to overcrowding and poor quality train carriages.

I have put up with the rail works which have taken years involving bus replacement services, greater overcrowding and delays all in the hope of getting a modern electrified system and thus an efficient service. This seems as elusive as ever. I visit friends in the south, have travelled on their new, clean, eight carriage, relatively empty trains, and look forward to being able to travel in the same standard in the north.

The timetable changes have added oil to the fire of a rubbish service. The idea of cutting the number of trains to Oxford Road for commuters is non-sensible as most people work this end of Manchester. Putting on more trains to Manchester Victoria is a good idea but not at the expense of the Oxford road line. The guard recommends me to travel to Victoria but it has added on a good half hour to my journey and is annoying as I work 5 minutes away from Oxford Road Station.

Yes, there are still trains to Oxford Road but I can't get on them, as they are full when they arrive into Bolton. Cutting the carriages down to two is just ridiculous. Even with four carriages there is overcrowding so
with just two I and a few hundred other people just stand there helpless with no hope of getting on.

What is needed is a shuttle service between Bolton and Manchester that runs frequently at rush hour. This would alleviate the overcrowding on the rest of the trains going further away. The pinch point is Bolton as hundreds of people commute into Manchester each day as well as all the students traveling into the various universities.

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