Written evidence submitted by Ms Sophie Norton (RTC0018)

I am a regular commuter between Warrington Central and Manchester, and Warrington Central and York. Recent timetables changes have disrupted my travel in three main ways:

- There is now less capacity on the already very busy line between Warrington Central and Manchester Oxford Road at peak times. Before the timetable changes, there was one long Transpennine train, two shorter Northern Rail trains, and a longer East Midlands train. The Transpennine train now uses the Ordsall Chord to route through Manchester Victoria, and no longer comes to Warrington Central. This train has been replaced by another short Northern Rail train. As a result there are still four trains, but fewer carriages each hour, which is a huge problem in rush hour.

- My regular commute to York has also been disrupted. I now always have to change at either Manchester or Newton-le-Willows, and as such my already lengthy journey takes significantly longer.

- All journeys have been disrupted by the problems caused by the Ordsall Chord. Trains have always been late going through the Manchester ‘bottle neck’ but this seems to have made the problem significantly worse. It took me 2.5 hours to travel a 1 hour journey last week.

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