



Green Party

10% cheaper

Cutting the cost of public transport

January 2015



Summary

- The Green Party proposes cutting the cost of public transport for passengers by 10% on 2015 ticket prices.
- The 10% cut to fares would be paid for by increasing the level of public investment in rail and bus fares by around £1.8 billion per annum.
- The £9 billion cost over the course of the next parliament would be met by scrapping most of the Government's £15 billion new road building programme. This would still leave £6 billion for other transport uses.
- This cut to the new roads programme would not affect road repairs or safety improvements to existing roads.
- Under the Green Party's plans fares would be cut by 10% in 2015 and held at this lower rate in real terms for the duration of the next parliament.
- Over time the Green Party would return the railways to public ownership to secure a cheaper and better service. The Green MP, Caroline Lucas, has proposed a Railways Bill that would bring franchises into public ownership as their contracts expire.



Detail

2013-14¹

Total rail fare receipts in 2013-2014, current prices	£billion
National Rail	8.2
London Underground	2.3
Total rail	10.5

Total bus fare receipts in 2013-2014, current prices	£billion
London bus services	1.3
UK bus services (exc. London) estimate	3.5
Total buses	4.8

Total fare receipts in 2013-2014, current prices	£billion
Total rail	10.5
Total buses	4.8
GRAND TOTAL	15.3

¹ Data from: Bus subsidies and concessions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/bus05-subsidies-and-concessions#table-bus0501>; Rail finance statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/raio3-rail-finance>; London Underground: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/lrtg9-london-glasgow-underground-train-statistics>



2015 projected²

	2015 prices (£billion)	Cut to fares (%)	Public investment required (£billion)
National Rail	9.3	12%	1.1
London Underground	2.6	10%	0.3
Total rail	11.9		1.4

	2015 prices (£billion)	Cut to fares (%)	Public investment required (£billion)
London bus services	1.3	7%	0.1
UK bus services (exc. London)	3.7	7%	0.3
Total buses	5.0		0.4

	2015 prices (£billion)	Cut to fares (%)	Public investment required (£billion)
Total rail	11.9		1.4
Total buses	5.0		0.4
GRAND TOTAL	16.9		1.8

This briefing was written and researched by Brian Heatley and Tom Sharman

² Factor is 1.0353. The 2015 projections assume an increase in receipts to take account of growth (particularly for rail).

