

FROM THE PAPERS

Items for the section 'From the Papers' (except for 'The Times' and London's 'Evening Standard') should be sent to Richard Thorogood at 81 Columbia Road, London, E2 7RG and not to the Editor of this journal.

01.11.08 THE TIMES – Saturday Interview: When Andrew Adonis was moved from his role as Schools Minister in the last government reshuffle, there were rumours he had been pushed. How could the man who created city academies and implemented Tony Blair's education agenda suddenly become the Fat Controller at the Department for Transport? But Lord Adonis insists he wanted the new job. He has maps of the rail and Underground networks, rather than Lowrys from the Government's art collection, hanging all over his office. He explains "I am passionately concerned about things that make countries work, and you cannot have a cohesive well-functioning society unless you have a first-class transport system". Lord Adonis says "We inherited a complete train wreck after privatisation, and it took us a while to get it right. We have had 50 per cent more passengers in the past ten years and a 50 per cent increase in freight". Britain is, according to the Minister of State, entering a new age of the train, which had dawned with the opening of St. Pancras as terminus to what is now known as High Speed 1. The big debate for the future was if and when we get High Speed 2 and 3. He says: "A new North-South high-speed line would be the biggest upgrade of the railways since the Victorians, and worthy of their vision. Unlike the Tories, he does not think that high-speed trains could be built instead of a third runway at Heathrow. Fewer than three per cent of flights go to Manchester or Leeds. The case for a high-speed line stacks up on domestic traffic. The case for a third runway is linked with our status as an aviation hub. Although the Minister emphasises that the final decision has not been made, it is clear he is a fan of both projects. He admits that building a new high-speed network would be phenomenally expensive and would be a 20-year project. But more electrification of existing routes is also required. We are the only country in Europe that still has a substantial diesel network.

03.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – The criteria for the new South Central rail franchise will include the following after ministers ordered safety improvements:

- 41 more stations in London manned from the first to last service.
- New late night services in south London on Fridays and Saturdays.
- Four trains an hour on most routes in South London until 23.00 Monday to Saturday and extra services on Sundays.
- All south London stations to be refurbished.

04.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – Ministers today sought to allay fears that Crossrail could be delayed by announcing that airport operator BAA will pay £230 million towards the project. The Crossrail services will be in addition to the four trains an hour non-stop Heathrow Express. However it will replace the existing Heathrow Connect stopping service from Terminal 4 to Paddington.

THE TIMES – A passenger sitting near Jean Charles de Menezes told his inquest yesterday that the police who shot him were "out of control". Anna Dunwoodie said she was "very, very clear" that officers did not shout "armed police" before opening fire, as they have previously claimed. Ms Dunwoodie said there was a "sense of panic" among officers as they rushed on to the Northern Line train and shot Mr. de Menezes seven times in the head. "Our first impulse was to call the police because

we needed to tell the police something illegal had happened”, she told Southwark Coroner’s Court, which is sitting in special session at the Oval cricket ground.

05.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – Boris Johnson today launched a ferocious attack on the Government for refusing to stump up more money the Underground upgrade. The Mayor accused ministers of failing in their duty and moral responsibility by ruling out extra money to plug a funding gap of at least £1.4 billion after transport minister Lord Adonis publicly rejected a plea for extra cash, saying that Transport for London had already been allocated a £40 billion grant for its funding requirements from 2010 to 2017. “We don’t accept that TfL does not have the money”, the peer said. But Mr. Johnson said the cost of improving the Northern, Jubilee and Piccadilly lines could rise more than had been forecast and warned of contractual problems with Tube Lines.

07.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) A new scheme to allow war veterans free travel on public transport in London was launched today by Boris Johnson. All veterans who receive a pension under the War pensions Scheme or are awarded funding under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme are eligible. The passes also apply to war widows and widowers and eligible dependants. They can be used on buses, London Underground and Overground, trams, the DLR and river services in the capital.

(2) Boris Johnson today announced plans to introduce the Oyster card onto the whole of London’s rail network by the end of next year. The Mayor said that he wanted to fully integrate Overground and Underground services so those travelling from stations in outer boroughs could use the cards and have the benefit of cut-price travel.

THE TIMES – Underground and bus fares in London will rise above inflation every year for the next eight years despite the cancellation of £3.7 billion of transport improvements, according to the transport business plan published by the Mayor of London yesterday. Mr Johnson said “The tragic reality is I am undoing a cruel deception on the people of London. There simply isn’t the funding to deliver what was promised. These things can come back if there is the funding to do them”. Cancelled projects include Cross River Tram, Oxford Street Tram, Croydon Tram extension, Greenwich Waterfront Transit, Thames Gateway Bridge, East London Transit and DLR to Dagenham Dock.

09.11.08 SUNDAY TIMES – Proposals to build a replacement for Heathrow in the Thames estuary have taken significant steps forward with Boris Johnson preparing to appoint the civil engineer behind Hong Kong’s giant island airport to examine the viability of the project. The move comes as senior MPs have set up a cross-party group to lobby the government to investigate the idea. An artificial island could have four runways operating 24 hours a day. Connections to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link would provide access to St. Pancras in 35 minutes, Brussels in 1 hour 30 minutes and Paris in 1 hour 50 minutes.

12.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – An illustrated two-page feature examines Boris Johnson’s first six months as Mayor of London:

Delivered – Alcohol ban on buses, Underground, DLR and trams; cancellation of Ken Livingstone’s Venezuelan oil deal; cancellation of £25 gas-guzzler charge; free travel for war veterans; reduction in taxi maintenance inspections; crime mapping website; saving LU station ticket offices; allowing motor bikes in bus lanes; closure of Mayor’s free newspaper The Londoner; live CCTV trial on buses.

In Progress – An extra 440 PCSOs on buses (by June 2009); new Routemaster (2012); scrapping bendy buses (2009-2015); Oyster cards on National Rail (2009); express buses in suburbs; 24-hour freedom pass.

Still Awaited – Rephasing traffic lights; abolishing tidal flow in Blackwall tunnel; “Velib” bike hire scheme; cycle superhighways; easing payment of congestion charge; running Underground later at weekends; 50 extra BT Police officers.

In Doubt – Scrapping of western extension to the congestion charge; opposition to inappropriate tall buildings; cost reductions on Olympics; no-strike deal on the Underground.

Longer term promises – Tackle teenage knife crime; reduce overall crime by more than 20 per cent over mayoral term; build 50,000 affordable homes; boost recycling.

THE TIMES – Anti-terrorist police have arrested ten members of a French anarchist movement accused of sabotaging the country’s railways. Saboteurs fixed iron bars of the type used in reinforced concrete to power cables above four separate tracks, including the Eurostar line, in the early hours of Saturday. When sweeper trains were sent out at 05.00 – a routine procedure to check for obstructions on the line – they clipped the bars and brought down the overhead cables. Although no railway workers were among those arrested, SNCF officials said the suspects must have had enough technical knowledge to be able to attach metal bars to 25,000 volt cables without electrocuting themselves.

13.11.08 THE TIMES – Under the heading “Tories signal the end of Network Rail’s gravy train”, it is reported that under plans outlined by the Conservatives bonuses for NR directors could be vetoed by the rail regulator. They also want to replace the company’s panel of 106 members, who act as shareholders, by a body of only 20 with greater powers to scrutinise the operation. NR directors would play no role in appointments to the new panel, which would include business leaders from outside the rail industry.

15.11.08 SOUTH LONDON PRESS – (1) Valerie Shawcross, London Assembly member and Labour Group transport spokeswoman, writes to express grave disappointment that the Mayor of London has scrapped plans both for the Cross River Tram and the extension of Croydon Tramlink to Crystal Palace. It is a disaster that the Cross River Tram project has been taken away from Peckham and other areas desperately in need of renewed transport infrastructure. Likewise residents in the Crystal Palace area had shown majority support for an extension of Croydon Tramlink, which would have hugely boosted the Upper Norwood area with rapid access to Croydon Town Centre.

(2) Ian Wingfield, LB Southwark councillor, writes that the time is ripe to resurrect the campaign to extend the Underground, by either the Bakerloo or Northern Line to Camberwell and to demonstrate to Boris Johnson that the demand for this exists.

17.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) Electricians who maintain the Underground network after hours are to strike in a dispute over pay. The RMT union said its workers, employed by EDF Energy Powerlink, deserved job parity with those on day shifts. The first strike is planned for 36 hours from 20.00 on Sunday.

(2) Large sections of the Underground and National Rail networks are to be shut for four days over Christmas, with no trains on either network on Christmas Day. Some London commuter lines will close for up to eleven days. The entire Jubilee Line will be closed from 25 to 28 December. Buses will replace trains on the Metropolitan Line between Aldgate and Northwood/Uxbridge on 27 and 28 December. The

London Overground line between Stratford and Dalston Kingsland will be closed from 27 December to 1 January. The Gospel Oak to Barking line will close on 28 and 29 December.

(3) Alistair Darling has said that Crossrail will not be delayed despite growing fears of a deep and prolonged recession. Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon and Mayor Johnson have even discussed whether the project could be speeded up, though so far Department for Transport officials have played down the likelihood of this happening.

19.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – Boris Johnson has called on the Government to help fund the East London Line Extension between Surrey Quays and Clapham Junction. There was a shortfall in the overall cost, which Mr. Johnson has trimmed down to £30 million. Today he pledged to find an extra £15 million but stressed he couldn't afford any more. Instead he pleaded with Geoff Hoon, the new Transport Secretary, to match the latest savings and provide the additional £15 million required to complete the key section in time for the 2012 Olympics.

METRO – Full service returned London Overground this week, after two and a half months of engineering works across the network. The works included upgrading tracks, strengthening bridges and widening a tunnel.

20.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – Boris Johnson today announced that he will give grants, totalling £168.3 million in all, to London boroughs for transport improvements. Although most of the money has been earmarked for specific schemes, each authority will for the first time be given £100,000 to spend as they please without having to get consent from City Hall.

HARROW OBSERVER – The number of seats on the Metropolitan Line is to be dramatically reduced for three years. New trains are to be introduced on the line during 2010 but will have less seating, forcing passengers to endure long journeys on their feet. Commuters were promised by LUL that the reduction would be compensated by a more frequent service – but this has now been ruled out because the signalling system will not be upgraded until 2013. A spokeswoman for Transport for London said: "A consequence of Metronet going into administration was that a decision was taken to retender the contract to deliver a new signalling system, which includes the Metropolitan Line".

METRO – A new deal announced by Transport for London yesterday will see ownership of the Oyster brand pass to TfL ensuring the ticketing system is available until 2013. New contracts with Cubic Transportation Systems and EDS International replace the existing PFI contract and will deliver better value for money and Oyster service improvements.

21.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) Commuter train fares will increase by up to 10 per cent from January, rail operators announced today. The worst hit passengers will be on Southeastern which will be allowed to put fares up by an average of 8 per cent to fund commuter trains on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

(2) The sit-down dining car on London's commuter network has been axed. National Express is to stop serving three-course dinners, lunch, breakfast and afternoon teas on its Liverpool Street to Norwich route from 19 December.

(3) The rail regulator has agreed to relax budget constraints on Network Rail in a move that will make up to £1 billion more available to the not-for-profit rail infrastructure group. The Office of Rail regulation's initial determination had left Network Rail with a £2.6 billion spending gap. NR responded by threatening to

approach the Competition Commission. However, Ian Coucher, chief executive, said yesterday that, after the regulator made a number of concessions, the company was minded to accept the ruling. Subject to receiving an appropriate investment-grade rating the company will be able to raise £3.4 billion in corporate debt over the next five years without a government guarantee.

24.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) According to the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report commuters will see more new trains earlier than expected as rolling stock planned for 2014 is brought forward. The Department for Transport had been expecting to pay for 1,300 new carriages, but now it looks as though plans for at least 200 trains will be fast-tracked as part of a boost to the economy.

(2) Directors of the Victoria & Albert, Natural History and Science museums have written to Boris Johnson after Transport for London scrapped a scheme to offer step-free access at South Kensington station. The redevelopment of the station is part of a scheme to transform the museum area into a shared space for cars and pedestrians. Initially TfL said it was likely a lift would be installed for wheelchair users and those with young children but it has now said it would cost £50 million and this cannot be afforded.

METRO – Clapham Common and Oval stations are undergoing refurbishments that require early closing from 22.00 on Sundays to Thursdays. The work includes the provision of modern facilities and the restoration of period features. The early closures will stop in time for Christmas but resume from 4 January until early April.

25.11.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) Tim O'Toole, LUL managing director, writes in response to recent items in the paper commenting adversely on the disruption caused by upgrading and renewal work especially at weekends and other holiday times. Mr. O'Toole says that, although engineering work inevitably results in some disruption, closures of stations and sections of line are planned two years in advance to avoid clashes with other events and to ensure that alternative travel options are always available.

(2) The £1 billion upgrade of the Piccadilly Line was today at risk of being axed. LUL chiefs, the Government and Tube Lines are involved in a row over a funding gap of £1.4 billion. Tube Lines, the private sector consortium which is also responsible for maintenance and improvement of the Jubilee and Northern lines, confirmed the Piccadilly Line upgrade, which would include 91 new trains, is at risk. Terry Morgan, Tube Lines' chief executive, also raised doubts over new signalling which was ordered at a cost of several hundreds of million pounds before the money was there to pay for it and contracts to provide new trains.

26.11.08 METRO – London's Brunel museum is organising public viewings of the grand entrance hall of the Thames Tunnel every Saturday, until 20 December. The entrance hall is open to the public for the first time in 140 years.

02.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – The *Together for London* website was set up by Transport for London and billed as a forum where travellers could work together to improve the capital's transport system. Among the hopes for the site was that it would cut unsociable behaviour on buses and the Underground. Users can create an avatar called "Little Londoner", who can set up a campaign along the lines of "I'll keep my feet off the seats". People can even sign up to buy T-shirts with their slogans on them. TfL launched the site with an advertising campaign and posters of Little Londoners were put up across the network. But Paul Allen, editor of *Computoractive* magazine said that when he first saw these he thought they were aimed at children, twee and childish, and wholly inappropriate for such a serious

issue. A TfL spokesman defended the site, saying it had only been running for 35 days. He admitted only 113 discussions had been posted so far, and 175 campaigns started out of an estimated three million commuters. "We have received over 200,000 page views. We plan to continue". For more information see <http://togetherforlondon.org>.

03.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Three major train operating companies said today they were axing jobs because of the effect of the credit crunch on jobs in the City and Canary Wharf. South West Trains into Waterloo, Euston-based Virgin Trains and East Midland Trains into St. Pancras, all owned or part-owned by Stagecoach, together employ 11,000 staff.

THE TIMES – The jury hearing the inquest of Jean Charles de Menezes were told today by the coroner Sir Michael Wright QC that they were not allowed to consider a verdict of unlawful killing as the evidence did not justify such a conclusion. The eleven jurors were told they could only consider two outcomes: either that Mr. de Menezes was lawfully killed or an open verdict.

04.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) Boris Johnson today said that Crossrail was on the fast track to completion, and opening in 2017, despite protests from business chiefs at being forced to pay towards the £16 billion project. Today ministers and Mr Johnson announced:

- Responsibility for delivering Crossrail will be transferred to the Mayor tomorrow.
- Legislation allowing the mayor to raise £3.5 billion through a levy on London firms will be published in Parliament.
- The City of London Corporation formally signed up to raising £359 million for the scheme.

(2) The four members of a train steaming gang, who called themselves the Untouchables, were today at Southwark crown court sentenced to imprisonment totalling 23 years. The gang robbed men, women and children on National Rail and Underground trains in east London during an eight-month campaign of terror. They were eventually recognised and subsequently caught from CCTV pictures.

05.12.08 THE TIMES – Relatives of Jean Charles de Menezes staged a courtroom protest yesterday during the closing stages of the inquest. Three members of the de Menezes family and two other campaigners removed their coats to reveal T-shirts with the slogans "Your legal right to decide" and "Unlawful killing verdict". The demonstration was directed against the decision by the coroner to bar the jury from considering a verdict of unlawful killing.

08.12.08 EAST END LIFE – Shadwell DLR station won an award from the London Cycling Campaign for the best cycling facility with its bike parking shed.

10.12.08 METRO – The Docklands Light Railway will benefit from £80 million in improvements to prepare the network for the 2012 Olympic Games. The enhancements, funded by the Olympic Delivery Authority, will help boost annual passenger numbers from 67 million to 100 million by 2012. Four new stations – Star Lane, Abbey Road, Stratford High Street and Stratford International will open in July 2010.

11.12.08 THE TIMES – In London seasoned Underground travellers jostle for the best place to stand on the platform to be first on to an overcrowded train. In Tokyo they employ packers, men in white gloves, who stuff commuters into carriages. In New York the city's Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to lock the flip-down

seats in almost half of the carriages during the rush hour to prevent passengers from sitting down, thus creating more room for straphangers.

12.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) According to documents seen by the ES, Underground train drivers are to tell commuters, over the intercom, to push shut any sliding doors they find open while the train is moving. The documents suggest the risk of a passenger falling through an open door was outweighed by the benefits of trains not being stranded in situations where passengers may suffer stress, heat and dehydration. The leaked documents also show that if a passenger were to fall out then the new procedure would be withdrawn immediately. Leaders of the ASLEF and RMT unions condemned the order as potentially dangerous.

(2) MPs are to investigate London Underground security amid concerns that it remains vulnerable to a terror attack more than three years after the 7 July bombings. The Commons counter-terrorism subcommittee, chaired by Tory MP Patrick Mercer, is starting an inquiry focusing on transport security, particularly the Underground, the new system of regional intelligence hubs, the ability of special forces and the police to respond to a Mumbai-style attack and the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism. Mr. Mercer believes there may be measures to give greater protection on the Underground and improve the response to another attack by extremists.

(3) The first of the new Javelin high-speed trains made its inaugural trial run today from Ashford to St. Pancras. The new link will slash journey times to London from the current 83 minutes to 37 minutes.

THE TIMES – Germany is seeking to buy Britain's share of Eurostar in a move that would leave the high-speed international train service entirely under foreign control. Passengers could benefit from direct services to several new continental destinations. Deutsche Bahn, Germany's state-owned railway, may also use Eurostar trains to operate a rival service through the Channel Tunnel, with competition resulting in cheaper tickets to Paris and Brussels. Over the past 18 months DB has quietly bought several British train operating companies that carry a total of 30 million passengers a year. It owns Chiltern, which runs between Marylebone and Birmingham, and half of LOROL, operating trains on the London Overground. It also runs two thirds of Britain's goods trains through its purchase of EWS, the biggest freight operator in this country.

13.12.08 THE TIMES – The Scotland Yard anti-terrorist operation that led to the death of Jean Charles de Menezes was subjected to withering condemnation yesterday by an inquest jury. Sir Michael Wright, the coroner, had sparked controversy and cries of "whitewash" when he denied the jury the option of returning an unlawful killing verdict. However the jurors delivered an open verdict and used their answers to a series of questions set by the coroner to set out their views.

Q: Did officer Charlie 12 shout the words "armed police" at Mr. de Menezes before firing?

A: No.

Q: Did Mr. de Menezes stand up before he was grabbed by officer Ivor?

A: Yes. (Police and other witnesses disagreed on whether Mr. de Menezes stood up).

Q: Did Mr. de Menezes move towards Charlie 12 before he was grabbed by Ivor?

A: No.

Q: Do you think any of the following factors caused/contributed to the death of Mr de Menezes:

The suicide attacks, attempted attacks, and the subsequent pressure on the police?

A: Can't decide.

The failure to obtain and provide better photographic images of the suspect?

A: Yes.

Failure by the police to stop Mr. de Menezes before he reached public transport?

A: Yes.

Difficulty in providing an identification of the man under surveillance in the circumstances and the time available?

A: No.

The behaviour of Mr. de Menezes which increased some officers' suspicions?

A: No.

The views of surveillance officers regarding identification were not accurately communicated to the command team and to firearms officers?

A: Yes.

The position of the cars containing the firearms officers was not accurately known to the command team?

A: Yes.

Significant shortcomings in the communications systems between the various police teams on the ground and New Scotland Yard?

A: Yes.

Failure to conclude, at the time, that surveillance officers should carry out the stop of Mr. de Menezes at Stockwell station rather than firearms officers?

A: Yes.

14.12.08 SUNDAY TIMES – (1) The first new steam engine to run on the railways since 1960 was unveiled at the National Railway Museum in York yesterday. More than 500 people attended the launch of the £3 million Tornado, based on a 1940s locomotive. It has completed test runs and is ready to go into service providing tourist trips between York and Newcastle upon Tyne from January.

(2) The family of Jean Charles de Menezes are to claim at least £300,000 damages from Scotland Yard in compensation for the disastrous police operation that led to his death.

15.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) The RMT union today threatened strike action on the Docklands Light Railway. The first of a series of 24-hour walkouts by key staff could take place next month. The union is balloting members in the DLR control centre over plans to replace 12-hour weekend shifts with eight-hour duties.

(2) Up to 2,000 jobs are to be axed at Transport for London because of the credit crunch. The 27,000 staff have been warned of a significant reduction in jobs over the next 18 months in an attempt to save £2.4 billion and to make TfL a leaner, fitter and more focused organisation. The first job losses will be announced in January and most will be white-collar workers. Cut backs are expected in marketing and communications, finance, business support and legal departments.

(3) Transport for London has scrapped plans for £60 million lifts at Tooting Broadway station. Martin Ellacott of Wandsworth Access Association said that the lifts had been in discussion for two years before being cancelled.

17.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – The Association of Train Operating Companies plans to let travellers on all franchises order and receive tickets on their mobile

phones, even if there are just seconds to spare before departure. The fare will be charged to a pre-registered credit card. Ben Wittaker of Masabi, the firm behind the system, said: "Once you send your text message to purchase your ticket, you will receive a response with a barcode reference, which can be scanned by inspectors".

18.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – (1) Outline planning permission has been granted for huge redevelopment of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich including a Crossrail station with underground platforms. Site developer Berkeley Homes will share the cost of the station with Transport for London.

(2) Boris Johnson today confirmed Londoners aged 60 and over will be entitled to free travel on the Underground and buses 24 hours a day, every day of the week, from 2 January.

19.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Brian Cooke lost his £37,000 job as chairman of London TravelWatch, and associated role at Passenger Focus, in October when the London Assembly's transport committee said his verbal attack on Ken Livingstone, days before the mayoral election, was inappropriate. Mr. Cooke today took his case for unfair dismissal to the Employment Tribunal.

23.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Transport chiefs came under fire today for letting London's networks go to sleep over Christmas. Campaigners want more done to keep the capital moving between Christmas and the New Year. Labour MP John Grogan said that most of Europe's capital cities had some sort of transport on Christmas Day. We had all the shops open and major events on Boxing Day so it was odd that transport is so reduced. Jo Bank, spokeswoman for London TravelWatch said that the problem was a lack of unity between the train operating companies that left many passengers, especially those who were not regular commuters, confused because so many lines are disrupted. London TravelWatch also urged passengers to consider renewing season tickets now and beat the January increases. It might be worth sacrificing a few days use of an existing ticket to purchase a new ticket at the old rate.

24.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Canary Wharf Group, the developer and owner of much of Docklands, today committed £150 million towards the new Isle of Dogs Crossrail station. The crucial deal with Transport for London plugs a gap in the funding of the Crossrail project.

28.12.08 SUNDAY TIMES – Lord Adonis, the transport minister, is proposing a 200mph high-speed rail service modelled on the bullet trains pioneered in Japan in the 1960s. He believes there is a strong case for building a £20 billion high-speed line that would cut journey times from London to Manchester, one of Britain's most congested routes, from 2hr 7min to just 80min.

29.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Union bosses today demanded that transport minister Lord Adonis halt moves by South West Trains to slash opening hours at 114 ticket offices. A government decision is said to be imminent on the SWT move, which has angered commuters and rail watchdogs. Bob Crow, leader of the RMT, said that more staff on stations were needed nor fewer. Gerry Doherty, leader of The TSSA union, said that SWT was putting profit before passengers. A Department for Transport spokeswoman said it was currently considering SWT's proposals.

30.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – Unions have condemned London's rail operators for levying maximum fare rises while reaping bumper profits. The RMT union described fare rises of between six and eleven per cent as a rip-off.

31.12.08 EVENING STANDARD – People caught up in the 7 July bombings have been recognised for their bravery with New Year honours. Civilians and off-duty emergency staff were among those who receive MBEs for the actions during the attacks which killed 52 people three years ago.