

## Question: 22

When are you going to remove the blue trains from long distance services on the Portsmouth line? These are 3rd class trains which are not fit for purpose.

Posted 16/03/2011 14:18:41

### Answer:

Class 450 trains are modern, reliable, air-conditioned rolling stock. Our customer feedback shows that getting a seat is high on the list of priorities for our passengers - these trains, when run as 12 cars provide 142 additional seats per journey compared to a 10-car Class 444 train. It's also clear from our passenger loading statistics that these trains are well used by customers.

Our latest passenger counts - taken directly from the trains' board counting equipment, continue to show a justification for using a combination of 450s and 444s on this route.

We continue to believe that the current mix of Class 450 and Class 444 trains on the Portsmouth line represents the most efficient use of our resources and provides the optimum balance between capacity and reliability for the route and the South West Trains network as a whole. It is vital that we balance the interests of different communities along the line and it is important to remember that the seats on Class 450 trains provide vital capacity for passengers closer to London.

In addition, it is worth noting that similar seating layouts are used on trains elsewhere on the UK rail network, for journeys of comparable distances.

I am sorry if this response disappoints some but I cannot foresee any changes to these arrangements over the duration of the current franchise.