

Appendix: Clearing the Air – August 2024 report

Cost calculation methodology statement

To compare the costs of train and plane travel for the six routes in the report, we collected data on the prices of all direct flights and train journeys for a one-way trip departing on August 5 and a one-way trip returning on August 9. Our methodology is outlined as follows:

1. Data Collection:
 - We included multiple airlines and train operators to capture a range of prices for each date.
 - Note, for the Aberdeen to Manchester route, where no direct train journeys are available, we used journeys that involved one change in Edinburgh. All other train routes were direct.
2. Average Cost Calculation:
 - For both departure and return dates, we calculated the average cost of all flights and train journeys.
 - For flights, this included an average cost of the base flight ticket, and an average cost of baggage and seat selection for each journey.
 - This provided us with a single average flight cost and a single average train cost for each route.
3. Price Sources:
 - Costs for all journeys were taken directly from the respective train and flight operator websites.
 - Train journey costs represent the full adult fare without a rail card.
 - Flight costs include the full adult fare, plus additional charges for baggage and seat selection.
4. Equivalency in Comparison:
 - To ensure an equivalent comparison between modes of transport, baggage and seat selection, which are included in train costs, were also factored into the flight costs.

This methodology allows for a fair and comprehensive comparison of travel costs between trains and planes for the selected routes and dates.

Further information

Further information about this report can be made available upon request by emailing media@raildeliverygroup.com.