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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very disappointed to hear of the proposed changes to the free-trip structure when using opal cards on trains. Currently, you pay for the first 8 free trips and the remaining in the week are free. Changing the system to only have the first 10 trips free will end up costing full time workers who use the train to travel too and from work significantly more (much higher than the old monthly/quarterly/etc paper tickets they use to buy pre-Opal becoming compulsory, even taking inflation into consideration!).

These proposed changes will also deter those who work part time (eg. 4 days per week) from using public transport on weekends, as now they will not be entitled to the free trips which the current system allows.

A fairer system would be for the user to pay for the 8 most expensive trips, rather than the first 8 trips, but still leave the cheapest trips over the 8 trip threshold free.

The changes to the Opal system for those transferring between transport modes is welcome, however, not if it is at the expense of increasing the number of paid trips before being eligible for free trips.