# Jeremy Clarkson criticises Scottish Government’s plan to abolish peak rail fares as costly communism



Jeremy Clarkson has ignited a fiery debate by lambasting the Scottish Government's decision to abolish peak rail fares, calling the policy a form of "communism." His commentary, featured in a national newspaper, highlights a growing frustration with government initiatives that appear more focused on idealistic schemes than on practical solutions.

The proposal to eliminate peak-time rail fares, recently reintroduced by John Swinney as part of the First Minister's Programme for Government, comes off the back of a previous retraction due to doubts about its financial soundness and actual effectiveness. While the SNP champions this initiative as a means to encourage public transport use and diminish car dependency, Clarkson argues that it disproportionately benefits a select group of affluent commuters. He emphasizes that when a similar policy previously cost taxpayers £40 million yet only resulted in a meager 6.8% uptick in rail passengers, the outcome is hardly justifiable.

Clarkson's skepticism stems from his assertion that such government strategies are fundamentally flawed. He describes the initiative as "the definition of insanity," repeating the same flawed approach and expecting different results. This outlook resonates with critics who question the viability and long-term benefits of these socialistic initiatives. While they may sound attractive in theory, they often falter in practice, leaving the average taxpayer to foot the bill.

Moreover, Clarkson dismisses the ideological underpinnings of these proposals, particularly the naive connection drawn between them and the decline in remote working. He believes that ordinary taxpayers—from nurses in Wolverhampton to refuse collectors in Luton—will ultimately shoulder the financial burden of subsidizing fares for a privileged few who might simply take the train more often.

There is palpable concern that policies born in Scotland could set a precedent for England, particularly regarding wider governmental approaches aimed at achieving net-zero emissions. Such measures have attracted scrutiny even from some within the Labour Party, including former leader Ed Miliband. Clarkson urges that this trend warrants serious examination, advocating for a more pragmatic transportation strategy that genuinely considers taxpayers' financial realities.

With peak fares scheduled to be eliminated across Scotland starting September, the debate surrounding the merits and potential downsides of this policy is far from settled. The pressing question remains: how to foster public transport adoption without placing an undue financial weight on the taxpaying public—a concern that is becoming ever more relevant in the current political climate.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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