



*With the Compliments of the
Parliamentary Clerk*

Mr Flesher

To see.

Darb
4/12

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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT :
RAILWAY ACCIDENT - SALFORD (MANCHESTER)

1. The accident occurred at 10.45 this morning. The 10.05 Liverpool to Scarborough passenger train, which consisted of a diesel locomotive and 7 coaches, ran into the back of a stationary oil tank train about half a mile on the Manchester side of Eccles Station, Salford. The locomotive and the first two coaches of the passenger train were derailed, as were a number of the oil tank wagons. Spilt gas-oil from the tank wagons caught fire.
2. The local signalman was able to stop other trains from approaching.
3. The emergency services were quickly on the scene. Traffic on the M602 motorway, which runs immediately adjacent to the railway, was stopped and, as a precaution, residents were evacuated from about 30 of the surrounding houses.
4. An Inspecting Officer of Railways has reported from the site. Our latest information is that the driver of the passenger train died in the crash and that two passengers have since died in hospital. A total of 67 passengers and railway staff were taken to hospital, of whom 4 are detained with serious injuries. I am sure the House will wish to join me in expressing condolences to the relatives and friends of those so tragically killed, and our wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.
5. There will be a formal Inquiry into the accident and the report will be published. Meanwhile it would be wrong to speculate on the cause of the accident.