Methodology: "The Best Train Stations in the UK"

In order to determine a ranking of the most passenger-friendly train stations in the UK, the 30 most popular train stations were examined for various influencing factors in the fields of "**Punctuality of Trains**", "**Businesses Nearby**", "**Amenities**" and "**Connectivity**".

The selection of train stations is based on booking data from May 1st, 2020 to February 15th, 2021 from Omio, the travel booking platform for trains, buses and flights.

Research Areas

Research field 1: "Punctuality of trains"

Adhering to the timetable and punctual trains contribute significantly to travel comfort. Information on the percentage of trains that leave on time was taken from On Time Trains.

Research field 2: "Businesses Nearby"

Shops, restaurants, pharmacies and bars within walking distance are particularly attractive for passengers with longer transfer times. Information about shops, restaurants, bars and pharmacies within a radius of half a mile from the train station was taken from the business directory Yelp. Yelp works with collectively collected information, so the results should be viewed as an indicator of the number of shops, restaurants, bars and pharmacies around the train station. The actual total amount may vary.

Research field 3: "Amenities"

The following amenities can contribute significantly to the comfort of travellers; **parking spaces** (designated parking areas or multi-storey car parks), **bicycle parking spaces, connections to local public transport, wheelchair access, lockers, public toilets, free WiFi, first-class lounges** and **car rental**. It was determined that if the train station had these facilities the train station received a score of 100, if it did not then a score of 0 was given. It was determined to give the station a score of 50 if the station had said facilities within a five-minute walk. Information about

the equipment features of all long-distance train stations was taken from the service portal National Rail.

Research field 4: 'Connectivity"

Distance to the city centre: A centrally located train station contributes significantly to travel comfort. The linear distance between the long-distance train station and the city centre in miles was determined with the help of Google Maps. This was given a score from 100 to 0.

Calculation and points

In order to be able to compare the results of all investigated train stations in one influencing factor, the result data were standardised on a point scale from 0 to 100. The train station that performed best in the respective influencing factor received a score of 100. The train station that performed worst in the respective influencing factor received a score of 0.

The scores of all other train stations are between 0 and 100 according to their results. The evaluation result of an examination field resulted from the sum of the points of all influencing factors in the respective examination field.

The evaluation results of all train stations have also been standardised to enable comparability. The overall evaluation resulted from the sum of all evaluation results of all research fields, which was also standardised on a point scale from 0 to 100 and resulted in the final ranking. A common normalisation formula was used for the standardisations.