

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Ein cyf/Our ref SF/EH/1282-13

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

28 March 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2013, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about express rail services between Holyhead and Cardiff. I apologise for the delay in reply.

I note that you have forwarded the specific timetabling concerns of the petitioner Neil Taylor and have asked that these be considered in more detail. I am committed to further improvements to these services, as evidenced by the infrastructure improvements that the Welsh Government is currently funding in the Wrexham area. I have asked my officials to consider further the information your petitioner has provided as they continue their work in this area. It should be noted, however, that the infrastructure on the West Coast Main Line (WCML) used for journeys between Holyhead and London provides greater capacity and allows higher operating speeds than the corresponding route. As you will be aware, responsibility for rail infrastructure sits with the Department for Transport.

Your letter also asks if further discussions have taken place with Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) on this issue. My officials have an on-going dialogue with ATW about further capacity enhancements, both for existing services and for delivering new services such as those outlined in the National Transport Plan. This dialogue continues to include discussions of north-south services.

I trust that the Committee will find this information useful for its inquiry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Edwina Hart'.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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