

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-321
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05494/11

William Powell AM
Chair, Petition's committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

13 July 2011

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William.

Thank you for your letter of 5 July, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about a petition submitted by Mr Bjorn Rödde. Mr Rödde calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that Arriva Trains Wales provides commuter train services between South West and South East Wales that are timely, convenient, fit for purpose and have a suitable number of seats/carriages for passengers to travel in comfort.

Overall there is a good train service between South West and South East Wales with, for example, at least two trains per hour for most of the day, increasing to three in some hours, between Swansea and Cardiff, provided by both Arriva Trains Wales and First Great Western Trains. There are also regular train services throughout the day from Cardiff to other destinations in South West Wales, including Carmarthen, Tenby and Milford Haven provided by Arriva Trains Wales. The rolling stock used includes Arriva Trains Wales' longer distance Class 175 fleet of trains, which the train operating company has recently refreshed. These provide a range of through services from South West Wales to popular destinations such as Shrewsbury, Manchester and towns in North Wales.

In addition, I will be at Fishguard Harbour Station on 12 September to commemorate the start of additional train services. These services, which I am funding, will offer the residents of Fishguard five further train services per day, Monday – Saturdays, and will provide through journey opportunities to various towns and cities including Carmarthen, Swansea, Cardiff and Manchester.

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

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In his evidence to the Committee, Mr Rödde states that two trains have been re-timed by Arriva Trains Wales and therefore the train is now an unusable mode of public transport. Mr Rödde is correct that Arriva Trains Wales has made some timing changes to the 05:53 service, as he highlights, and the rationale for doing this is to improve overall end to journey times between Carmarthen and Manchester, which the Welsh Government supports. This service offers connections from Swansea, at 06:41, into First Great Western's 06:58 service to London Paddington and provides an overall through journey improvement to Manchester of 15 minutes.

The 16:04 evening service from Cardiff Central that Mr Rödde refers to in his evidence to the Committee has not been re-timed by Arriva Trains Wales, to depart at 15:54, as he has stated, and remains the same.

I am therefore confident that there are a good range of train services overall between South West and South East Wales. Furthermore, I am funding the dualling of the single track between Gowerton and Loughor, which prohibits further service provision. This project is linked to Network Rail's replacement of the Loughor viaduct in early 2013. Once completed, existing services will be more robust, in terms of performance and reliability, and will enable further trains to be provided west of Swansea at a later date.



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