

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref DLS/ITJ/Is
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06572/19

Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Chair, North Wales Economic Ambition Board

IwanJ@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

24 June 2019

Dear Dyfrig,

Thank you for your letter of 28 May regarding the North Wales Economic Ambition Board which was held on 14 May. Firstly may I extend my congratulations again to you on your appointment as Chair of the Board.

I can confirm that 27 June has been agreed for both the Private Sector and the joint UK Government and Welsh Government Ministerial challenge sessions in North Wales.

There is no doubt Heads of Terms by the end of July is a challenging timetable but we are committed to working with you, UK Government and the Board to achieve this important milestone to time. I would be delighted to attend a forthcoming Economic Ambition Board and my office will confirm my availability for either the June or July meeting.

I expect HS2 to deliver real benefits for North Wales, maximising and dispersing the benefits of HS2 so that passengers in Wales experience a step-change in service frequencies, service quality and journey times.

Crewe station is a major focal point on the UK rail network and acts as an important interchange for rail passengers from all over Wales. It will become even more important following the introduction of HS2 services in 2027. Sitting at the junction of three busy existing lines, Crewe station's ability to serve a wide catchment area means it is ideally located to provide a key interchange point between high speed and existing services.

Maximising the benefits of HS2 to Wales is dependent upon a hub at Crewe being designed in a way which enables people travelling to and from Wales to access the HS2 network quickly and efficiently. As a minimum, the hub must be served by frequent high speed trains, have close and accessible connectivity between high speed and classic services, and provide adequate capacity to accommodate existing and planned classic train services within the main station footprint.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Finally as you will recall from our meeting of 22 May, Gwen Roberts, Chief Regional Officer for North Wales will arrange to meet with you separately to discuss a number of issues including;

- The emerging WG international strategy in relation to North Wales.
- A possible energy summit for the region
- Introducing officials to the new Programme Director for the NWEAB programme office.

Yours ever,
Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport