

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/02390/22

Councillor Elwyn Jones
Gwynedd Council
eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

07 March 2023

Dear Councillor Elwyn Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 14 December, and I note Cyngor Gwynedd's resolution to write to relevant parties regarding train services provided by Avanti West Coast and Transport for Wales (TfW) in Gwynedd.

Regarding TfW's plans, they are investing £800 million in brand new rolling stock throughout the network, with brand new CAF Class 197 trains service now in north Wales with the first trains being used on the Conwy Valley Line. These new trains are replacing the old trains used in north Wales and provide an increase in capacity and improvements in passenger comfort and facilities compared to the trains they will replace.

Furthermore our North Wales Metro Programme will transform rail, bus and active travel services across North Wales. The Metros offer some of the best opportunities to meet our target of 45% of journeys being made by public transport or active travel by 2040, helping reduce road congestion, carbon emissions and air pollution.

Regarding Avanti West Coast, they are now running 6 return services a day to and from north Wales on Mon-Fri with 5 return services between north Wales and London, with the remaining service operating between north Wales and Crewe or Birmingham. There are 5 return services on a Saturday and Sunday but not all of these travel as far as London with a mixture of destinations such as Chester, Crewe and Birmingham.

Regarding HS2 the UK Government is investing £100 Billion in HS2 rail infrastructure and out of that funding Wales should be entitled to our population share of 5%, which is £5 Billion. The continued categorisation of HS2 by the UK Government as an England and Wales project by the UKG Treasury scuppers our ability to invest in rail in Wales. In July 2021 the Welsh Affairs Committee concluded that HS2 should be reclassified as an England Only Scheme, recognising that the scheme does not benefit Wales. The UK Government did not accept this recommendation.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lee.Waters@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.

The Welsh Government has consistently called for responsibility for rail infrastructure in Wales to be devolved with a fair funding settlement. The UK Government has consistently rejected our request and continuously failed to invest in Wales. Full devolution of the rail network alongside a fair funding settlement will enable the transformational development of the railway across Wales needed to deliver our vision for rail set out in Llwybr Newydd. This would allow us to provide passengers with an accessible integrated and sustainable public transport system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', written in a cursive style.

Lee Waters AS/MS

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