



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-416
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02831/15

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

2 July 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 18 June enclosing the petitioner's further comments regarding North-South rail services.

The pattern of commuting services for North Wales is oriented towards travel eastwards in the morning and westwards in the evening reflecting passenger demand. That said, there are commuting options available for passengers travelling in both directions.

We continue to invest in additional services and capacity for North Wales, which include benefits for commuters. Network Rail are due to complete the £44m North South Journey Time Reduction scheme this year which enable faster journeys between Cardiff and North Wales.

There have been a number of timetable enhancements in recent years that have also improved the overall provision of train capacity in North Wales. In relation to the additional capacity provided by the recent introduction of the loco-hauled services, this is not limited to those services alone but has also enabled longer trains to be deployed on fourteen further services by a related cascade of other rolling stock.

I understand that stakeholders will have aspirations for further enhancements to services. I will continue to consider these, but will of course have to be mindful of budgetary consideration and, increasingly, the shortage of suitable available trains currently available.

We are engaging with rail user groups about their views on further enhancements, particularly with relation to specifying the next Wales and Borders franchise and modernisation of the North Wales network.

Edwina Hart