

Adran yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth Department for Economy and Transport



Ein cyf/Our ref TO/KS/01442/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
6 May 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS

Thank you for your letter of 2 April regarding Petition P-05-957 "Next Stop St Clears" - Support the bid for a railway station in St Clears.

Given the current crisis, and the volume of correspondence that the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales is receiving, he has asked me to respond to you on this occasion.

The Minister wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport on 2 March about the UK Government's "Restoring Your Railway investment" funding. The letter sets out Welsh Government's priorities for the UK Government's New Stations Fund (NSF) 3 these being Deeside, Carno, St Clears and Ely Mill/Victoria Park. Each of these has further feasibility assessment under way – assessment of development options for the South West Wales Metro in the case of St Clears.

In light of the unforeseen short NSF application window set out by the UK Government – the deadline is 5 June - Transport for Wales (TfW) have been commissioned to undertake further independent assessment and evaluation aiming at getting each of the four shortlisted priorities application-ready. The Minister has also requested that the report should identify solutions to timetabling and other operability issues identified to date by the rail industry, which will be asked by the UK Government to provide views on applications submitted to them.

Welsh Government officials and TfW's Chair and Chief Executive met the constituency MP and the St Clears Town Council on 3 April to discuss the new phase of study, and the meeting was very positive. The terms of reference for the TfW study include a requirement for engagement with stakeholders. In terms of St Clears, TfW's independent advisers have been told this should include the County Council, Town Council and elected representatives.

I would stress that the sole responsibility for investment under the NSF programme rests with the UK Government, and that we are very pleased to have the support of St Clears Town Council to secure funding for the proposals we will be putting forward.

Yours sincerely,

Dewi Rowlands

Deputy Director Transport Strategy and Policy

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.

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