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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi,
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Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ93577
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ93577

Rhys ab Owen MS
Member for South Wales Central

06 August 2024

Dear Rhys,

On the 26 July 2024 you tabled a written question in the Senedd asking what assessment the Welsh Government has made of the possible impact of the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill on Welsh public transport.

The railway is a fundamental public service belonging to us all, and its place is in the public sector rather than in the hands of shareholders and private investors. In Wales we are already demonstrating the benefits of a publicly owned rail operator, with Transport for Wales focussed on delivering for people not profit.

The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill will provide Welsh Ministers with the power to directly appoint a public sector railway operator in Wales long term. This aligns with our ambition and secures the future of Transport for Wales Rail Ltd. Retaining Transport for Wales Rail Ltd. in the public sector will enable us to maximise the benefits of integrating rail with other forms of public transport, particularly buses, through the forthcoming Welsh Bus Bill.

We will continue to work toward our ambition of greater devolution of the railway with a fair funding settlement and in partnership with the UK Government to improve services for rail passengers across Wales and the Borders.

The Legislative Consent Memorandum laid on 1 August provides further detail on the provisions of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

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Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Transport and North Wales

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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.