



Ein cyf/Our ref: OQ56172

Russell George MS
Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire

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9 February 2021

Dear Russell,

I am writing to provide you with the information promised during my OQ session on 27 January, regarding Cefn Bridge, Trewern and the A458 Welshpool to Shrewsbury road.

NMWTRA are currently working on the Cefn Bridge parapet repair scheme. Due to nature of the works a specialist fabrication company has been brought in to design, fabricate and carry out the works. Unfortunately due to Covid impact restrictions and resultant backlog of work, the earliest they can start on site is 15 March.

We are also having to liaise with Network Rail because of the Cambrian Coast Rail Line immediately below the bridge and the required planning and approval prior to any works taking place. However, please be assured that NMWTRA are doing everything in their power to get the works completed as early as possible.

Whilst the highway is restricted under temporary traffic management there will inevitably be delays and impacts on traffic and I am grateful for the patience of those who use the road on a daily basis. However, we will also be undertaking several safety schemes at the same time as the parapet repair works to minimise any future disruption. These schemes will include skid resistance, signing, lighting and speed limit enhancements.

You'll be aware from my previous announcements that we continue to have positive discussions with the UK Government for all road, rail and public transport cross border schemes. In particular for mid Wales, we are working with Highways England to deliver the A483 Pant and Llanymynech bypass. The aim is to have a scheme that is ready to deliver within the next Highways England financial control period – RIS3 (Road Investment Strategy) which is scheduled for 2025 – 2030.

With regards to the A458, I can confirm that studies were undertaken a number of years ago to identify options to improve safety along the A458 between Buttington and Woolaston Cross.

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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.

However, as noted above, the current priority is the Llanymynech - Pant bypass. We will of course continue to highlight this scheme in our discussions with the UK Government so that it can be considered in future years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales