



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90025

Andrew RT Davies MS
Member for South Wales Central

26 April 2024

Dear Andrew,

On the 4 December 2023 you tabled a written Senedd question asking what discussions the previous Minister had with Transport for Wales to ensure there was an efficient rail service over the 2023/24 festive period. I am responding due to my portfolio responsibilities. Thank you for your patience.

Your question highlighted an important issue which remains relevant. I have already met with Senior Managers at Transport for Wales and will continue to have regular conversations with them about rail service provision. TfW were asked ahead of the festive period to consider service provision noting the industrial action affecting the UK Government managed services in Wales. TfW were also asked to balance services with the importance of delivering our transformation of the Core Valley Lines during periods of much reduced passenger demand.

I am pleased to note that Transport for Wales' performance was above target for December despite the impact from industrial action reducing other operator's services, and the impacts of storms Gerrit and Henk. In addition, progress made on infrastructure works over the festive period enabled us to reopen the Treherbert Line on time in February.

Whilst I recognise that Transport for Wales faced difficulties in 2023 as they introduced the new fleet and retired legacy fleets, a corner has now been turned. TfW is becoming an operator we can all be proud of with over 84% of services on time in March 2024. TfW's performance is the best it has been for 2 years, and has been better than all other operators in Wales so far this year. It is my hope that this level of performance will continue and improve even further in 2024.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport