



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ89997

18 December 2023

Dear Andrew

I am writing in response to Written Question 89997:

What assessment has the Minister made of the Office of Rail and Road's findings of poor train punctuality and reliability and a declining service in Wales in comparison to the rest of the UK?

I am disappointed and concerned by the ongoing poor performance of Network Rail which has impacted passenger journeys in Wales. The Office of Rail and Road has also been concerned about the poor performance of Network Rail's Wales and Western Region for some time and has now launched a formal investigation. We will fully engage with the investigation and continue to work with industry partners.

Whilst the responsibility for Network Rail and their performance lies entirely with the UK Government, how they manage their infrastructure directly impacts Transport for Wales services. I have therefore met with Nick Millington, the Route Managing Director for the Wales Route regarding the investigation and to understand what actions he is taking to improve performance in Wales. In that meeting I made it clear that it would not be acceptable for funding or resource to be moved from Wales to improve performance in the Western Region and that we would work alongside Network Rail and Transport for Wales to drive measures that will improve performance in Wales.

I remain concerned that the UK Government's plans, and reduced funding for the next railway control period, will make it even more difficult for Network Rail to improve performance. The UK Government are directing a managed decline of the railways in Wales having failed to invest in improving our network and they are now planning to reduce the amount of funding available to Network Rail.

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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 blue ink that reads "Julie James". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Julie" and the last name "James" written in a single continuous line.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change