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Russell George MS
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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8 February 2021

Dear Russell

Future of Rail update

I am writing to update you on the future of rail in Wales and the Borders.

You may recall that I wrote to you on 22nd October 2020 on the future rail delivery model Transport for Wales will be implementing which will allow us to adapt our plans to a post-Covid era.

I am pleased to report that following a rigorous process, which involved very detailed discussions with KeolisAmey, as of 7th February TfW, through its subsidiary TfW Rail will operate the Wales and Borders rail service.

As a partnership we have always remained committed to delivering a rail service for Wales and the Borders, whilst remaining honest with ourselves on the challenges presented due to the pandemic. This commitment and honesty has enabled us to smoothly realign our partnership in what should be a seamless manor.

From 7th February, Transport for Wales, Keolis and Amey will be made up of three key components:

- The delivery of day to day rail services will be the responsibility of a new publicly-owned subsidiary of Transport for Wales. With huge uncertainty over passenger revenue, this provides us with the most stable financial base to manage rail services as we emerge from the pandemic.
- Infrastructure management and transformation of the Welsh Government-owned Core Valley Lines will continue to be delivered under the current contract. This will provide stability for the programme to ensure effective delivery of the south Wales Metro transformation work which is already underway.



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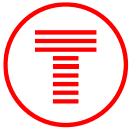
- A new partnership with Keolis and Amey, led by Transport for Wales, has been developed, which will allow the people of Wales to continue to draw on the international experience and expertise of these partners to help TfW to deliver important commitments such as integrated ticketing, on demand transport systems, cross modal design and delivery, in addition to the ongoing integration of light and heavy rail.

We are all too aware that we are still in difficult times and we can't afford to be complacent as we navigate our way out of the pandemic. The new partnership is very conscious of the realities we are facing, and of difficult decisions ahead as we come to terms with the new economic realisms caused by the virus. However, our ambition to continue to deliver a high quality public transport system remains, and if anything it has heightened our awareness of the need to ensure that our wider climate change and social justice priorities are met. Whatever the future looks like, good quality, integrated public transport is critical.

I am sure you will share our desire to see this new model flourish and continue to deliver on our ambitious plans for the future. I am happy to meet with you to discuss further if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

James Price
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive



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