

James Price – Chief Executive Transport for Wales

19 April 2023

**Procurement of Rolling Stock by Transport for Wales**

Dear James,

The Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee has received correspondence about the procurement/supply of what we understand to be five 'Class 230' hybrid battery/diesel trains from VivaRail, and in the wake of the appointment of administrators to the company. The correspondence raises concerns about the impact that these developments may have on plans for bringing these trains into service, and delays to date. To assist with our initial consideration of matters raised by the correspondence, the Committee would welcome further details about the arrangements. More specifically:


- confirmation of the number/specification of the trains ordered and whether these have been supplied in full (if not what remains outstanding).
- whether the trains have been bought outright or are being leased, the supporting rationale in either case, and when the contractual arrangements were entered into.
- when Transport for Wales originally expected the trains would come into operation and on what routes, along with any updated position in either respect (in the context of post-pandemic patterns of demand).
- reasons why the trains have not already entered operation and original plans for how they would be serviced/maintained.
- total costs to the public purse to date, how these costs are broken down, and any outstanding debts in either direction.
- TFW's assessment of the impact of VivaRail's administration or other factors on plans for the introduction of these trains into service and ongoing maintenance arrangements.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

We would welcome a response by 19 May 2023 if at all possible. If there is information that you consider is commercially sensitive but could be made available to the Committee on a confidential basis, then I would ask that you discuss further with the clerking team the handling of your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Isherwood', followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

cc:

Tracey Burke – Director General for Climate Change and Rural Affairs - Welsh Government

Peter McDonald Director of Economic Infrastructure – Welsh Government