

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair - Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure
Committee

5 July 2023

Procurement of Rolling Stock by Transport for Wales

Dear Llyr,

The Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee has received correspondence about Transport for Wales (TfW) 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, I wrote to the Chief Executive of TfW requesting further details about these arrangements. I have attached copy of the letter and the response to it for your information.

PAPAC considered the response at its meeting held on 22 June 2023 and agreed to refer these matters to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee. We understand the Committee will be planning its annual scrutiny of TfW in the autumn, which will be covering these matters. There are clear issues with the operation of Welsh rail services, and there are concerns about the response received from Mr Price in respect of the procurement of these vehicles by TfW.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Although some of these matters sit within the remit of PAPAC, such as the contractual arrangements that were entered into by TfW, the total costs to the public purse to date, how these costs are broken down, and any outstanding debts in either direction, which are clear value for money issues, we believe these matters should be scrutinised alongside wider policy issues that the CCEI Committee is able to explore.

However, we will reserve the right to scrutinise TfW on matters that specifically relate to PAPAC's remit if the Committee feels there are further issues to resolve.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Isherwood', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee