

Dear Clerk,

Thank you for the advanced notice that my petition will be considered again at the next meeting of the Petitions Committee.

I would like to start by welcoming the long-awaited report by the North Wales Transport Commission on Menai Strait transport connections, and the recommendations do adequately address some of the current issues with crossing the Menai Strait.

I would like to make particular comments on Recommendations 3-5 about studying and potentially redesigning the junctions before and after Britannia Bridge – from personal experience, these junctions have often caused problems with traffic flow across the bridge so I believe the Welsh Government should indeed look at these as a priority.

I would also like to pay attention to Recommendation 7 to increase the frequency of trains calling at Llanfair PG. As a strong advocate for rail travel, I believe this would be hugely beneficial to promote a modal shift towards public transport, especially by rail, which would ultimately have a positive impact on climate change.

On the points the Commission made specifically on the Third Menai Bridge, I would like to thank them for including this in their report and particularly that they do see there may be reasons to renew the scheme in the future, with reference to potential developments at Wylfa Newydd which I would like to add my own support to as I strongly believe Nuclear Power is going to be vital to decarbonising electricity production. I understand that any new bridge will need to meet the Welsh Government's 4 tests for road building, and should this be considered in the future I would like to refer to my personal solutions to meeting these points that I mentioned in my response to the Deputy Minister.

I strongly hope that the Welsh Government will carefully read the recommendations of this report and work should begin in earnest to implement them.

Whilst outside the general scope of my petition, I would however like to make a small comment regarding the North Wales Transport Commission's final report, specifically on their points about rail travel.

In Page 36 of the report, they make the comment "We do not support reinstating rail lines in north Wales at present." I believe this is a hugely disappointing comment made by the Commission and I would like to ask the Welsh Government if they agree with this particular point. Amazing work by volunteers has already been undertaken to clear the old line between Amlwch and Gaerwen on Anglesey, therefore I find the comments made by the Commission that they would support this valuable asset being turned into an Active Travel route very disappointing.

Likewise, the point made that they do not support opening any new stations in North Wales, aside from the station in Deeside, is equally disappointing, as many communities across North Wales have no easy access to the national rail network. Comments like these only strengthen the belief that money is spent in South Wales whilst the North is left out of good investment opportunities.

Whilst these points are separate to what my initial petition is about, I do believe it important that they are addressed in some form as the report as written could potentially lead to missed investment opportunities in North Wales.

I look forward to watching the debate in the Petitions Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emyr Owen', written in a cursive style.

**Emyr Owen**