



Ein cyf/Our ref:PO/KS/513/25

Andrew RT Davies MS
Chair of Economy, Trade & Rural Affairs
Committee

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

21 October 2025

Dear Andrew

Global Centre of Rail Excellence

Thank you for your letter which focusses on the objective of securing the capital investment required to deliver the objectives envisaged for the Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE). Welsh Government is closely involved with the delivery of the GCRE programme. It works with the board of directors and the executive team at GCRE Ltd in support of its efforts to secure private investment in the company. Specifically, GCRE has been granted the ability by Welsh Government to explore the extent to which the project may need to be derisked, by virtue of additional public funding or the provision of a guarantee in order to secure the private capital funding necessary to take the project forward.

Understandably, it is not possible at this point to articulate the scope or extent of any additional intervention, but officials will be available to support those negotiations at the appropriate time.

In addition, GCRE has been resourced to extend its remit into non-rail activities to establish whether complementary investment on site may be able to generate receipts or income to support the core project. To facilitate this, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning and I have recently committed additional funding to GCRE Ltd for the period up to the end of this financial year.

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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.

On the final point, officials continue to engage with UK Government and the National Wealth Fund to explore all options to meet the capital cost of GCRE. I am grateful to have been copied into your letter to the Secretary of State on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', followed by a large, stylized circular flourish.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales