

**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes
Enterprise and Business Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Cyfeirnod/ref P-04-459

Dear Bill

I am writing with regard to your letter dated 8 April 2013 about the following petition from Sovereign Wales:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to develop a direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport itself to Cardiff central and west Wales.

As you mentioned, the Enterprise and Business Committee made the following recommendation to the Welsh Government in its report on international connectivity through Welsh ports and airports, which was published in July 2012.

Recommendation 6. *Explore the business case for a frequent, direct train service to Cardiff Airport, should this be supported by the independent assessment suggested in Recommendation 4.*

As you also noted, this recommendation was accepted in principle by the Welsh Government in its following response to the report:

Response: Accept in Principle

We accept this recommendation in principle. The Welsh Government's prioritised National Transport Plan for Wales commits us to consider increasing services on the Vale of Glamorgan line to half hourly, which would double the number of services that call at Rhoose (Cardiff International Airport) station. This will be possible following the completion of Network Rail's Cardiff Area Signalling Renewal programme, which is due to be completed in 2015. In addition, we are continuing to fund the popular shuttle bus service between Rhoose (Cardiff International Airport) Station and Cardiff Airport, and the service has recently been extended to the St Athan Enterprise Zone.

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Clerc/Clerk: Dr Siân Phipps, Ffôn /Tel: 029 2089 8582
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In addition to this, in January of this year, the Committee held a follow-up scrutiny session with the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, on Cardiff Airport.

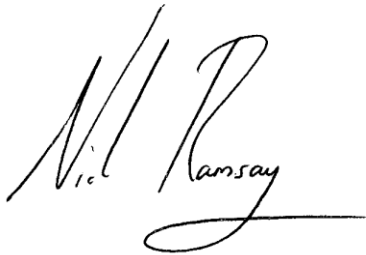
In response to Members' questions regarding the rail services to and from Cardiff airport, the First Minister noted that, in time, he would have to consider improving connections to the airport, but that his priority was to ensure that the airport continues to exist in the first instance.

He confirmed that establishing a rail spur into the airport with possibilities of improving access to and from Rhoose station was one proposal that could be considered, but that there were also other proposals that could be considered in time, such as building an interchange closer to the Porthkerry viaduct. He also reiterated the fact that rail connections would improve as a result of re-signalling work in the Cardiff area from 2015, which would lead to a half-hourly service between Cardiff and the airport.

He also said that consideration would have to be given to developing a rail service between the airport and London.

The Committee will continue to keep a watching brief on this issue. In the meantime, I hope that this response will assist you in your discussions on this petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Ramsay'. The signature is stylized with a large 'N' and 'R'.

Nick Ramsay AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair