

Dear Siân Phipps

Re: Consultation: The future of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise

I am an individual with experience of using trains across the Wales and Borders region and further afield to transport bikes.

I would urge the consideration of cycle carrying facilities to be a priority in the procurement of future rolling stock.

Existing provision in the Wales and Borders rolling stock for cycles has been very limited and poorly designed, often allowing no more than two bikes per train. I would recommend better layouts which are used on many Scotrail trains which provide for at least six bikes per train (with space both sides of the aisle and use of wheel-hangers for vertical storage).

It is also possible to provide substantial additional bike space (the six spaces above should be considered a bare minimum) without compromising peak seating capacity by also using folding seats facing sideways which can be lowered when needed for seating passengers. This arrangement is used in some Scotrail trains, and has the advantage that it is suitable for longer bikes like tandems.

I would also request that policy regarding tandems be carefully considered to avoid prohibiting them unduly. It is true that with some designs of cycle storage tandems are not easily fitted, but with layouts like the folding seats described above it is quite possible to fit a tandem. It would be very much appreciated if you were able to thus avoid blanket policies which are unfortunately in place on Scotrail to prohibit tandems as this prevents some passengers from using the trains and often taken them is not a problem in reality.

Kind regards

Sam Wakeling