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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00954/15

William Powell AM

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Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 26 February requesting comments on Petition P-04-627 regarding improved commuter train services for North Wales residents.

We are committed to improving services across the rail network in Wales. Arriva Trains Wales currently provides 19 services from the west into Bangor and 19 from the east. This is above the level of 15 required under the terms of the Wales and Borders franchise agreement. In addition Virgin Trains provide 7 return services between Bangor and London/Birmingham.

The 0936 arrival into Bangor was replaced in September 2012 for the current 1008 arrival. This resulted from changing an existing Manchester-Llandudno service with a Cardiff-Holyhead service in order to better match the distribution of two-car and three-car trains with passenger demand. Similarly, the December 2014 timetable change (which included the introduction of additional loco-hauled services) has delivered significantly increased peak capacity for North Wales rail passengers including those travelling to/from Bangor. The new loco-hauled services have also delivered extra capacity on busy boat trains from Holyhead and provide additional capacity to/from North Wales on event days.

Edwina Hart