



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-416
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/01905/15

William Powell AM

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30 April 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April regarding North-South rail services.

I note the petitioner's comments regarding the importance of these services, and I am committed to improving journey times and transport links between North and South Wales to promote economic growth.

On 6 March I announced the continuation of the Welsh Government funded North-South express rail service, also known as Y Gerallt Gymro. The new contract will ensure the service continues until the end of the current Wales and Border franchise in October 2018.

This continues an ongoing commitment to improve travel links between North and South Wales, I have approved funding of £44m to Network Rail to deliver significant improvements between Wrexham and Chester, cutting journey times between Holyhead and Cardiff and allowing an extra train to run every two hours between the two stations via Wrexham.

The petitioner may also be interested to hear about the renewal of the North-South air service, whereby I have awarded a new contract to Links Air who will operate two daily return flights from Anglesey to Cardiff offering new flight times to allow for a longer working day at both destinations.

Edwina Hart