

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-565
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/01864/15

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 May 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Albert Fox regarding the revival of disused railways for leisure and whether the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 could provide a mechanism for addressing the issues raised in Mr Fox's petition.

The Active Travel Act places duties on local authorities to improve infrastructure to enable people to make active travel journeys only. An active travel journey is classed as a journey to or from a workplace or educational establishment or to access health, leisure or other services or facilities. The route itself must be suitable for active travel journeys which are for everyday purposes i.e. journeys for utility not recreation. The scope of the Act therefore does not extend similar duties for improving recreational and leisure routes.

Active tourism opportunities such as these are however an area that can bring significant economic and social benefits for local communities where that is feasible and I am giving further consideration to how we might assist local communities maximise those opportunities in this area.

Edwina Hart