

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

William Graham AM  
Chairman  
Enterprise and Business Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

22 January 2016

Dear William

Transfer of rail franchising functions to the Welsh Ministers is expected in 2017, and ahead of this, it is important Welsh Government engages with the public and relevant stakeholders before developing a specification for a new franchise.

As part of our commitment to this public engagement, I have today launched a consultation that invites opinion on the key quality outcomes that need to be included within the next Wales and Borders franchise specification, including:

- Outcomes and priorities for improvement
- Services to be provided and capacity
- Performance and disruption handling
- Fares and ticketing
- Rolling stock

This consultation is the first stage of a programme of public and industry engagement. A report summarising the views expressed during this phase of the engagement exercise will be prepared and published after the elections to the National Assembly for Wales in May have taken place.

The views gathered during this exercise will further inform development of the detailed proposals and specification for the award of the next Wales and Borders Franchise, which will be subject to further public consultation of not less than 12 weeks in duration.

*Edwina Hart*

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)  
paper*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
[Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
*Printed on 100% recycled*

The Welsh Government's Consultation Document on Setting the Direction for Wales and the Borders Rail is available in the following link:

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/consultation/160122-wales-border-rail-franchise-consultation-document-en.pdf> (40 pages)