

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Finance Committee
Senedd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

18 March 2024

Dear Peredur

During scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Second Supplementary Budget 2023-24 at the Finance Committee on 29 February, I agreed to follow up with further information on a couple of points raised during discussions.

Health and Social Services MEG

As set out in our second Supplementary Budget and the previous statement on reprioritisation and accompanying addendum to the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment, we made a number of tough choices this year to reduce expenditure across the Health and Social Services budget to redirect to supporting front line services.

In addition to those choices the budget shows increased income from transfers related to underspends on the UK Health Security Agency Four Nations fund.

Costs of subsidy per passenger on trains in Wales

The value for subsidy per passenger in Wales will vary by line or route, the operator of the service and whether or not funding for infrastructure is taken into account. We continue to work with Transport for Wales to make savings and to minimise the gap between their income and costs, while also ensuring rail services remain affordable for passengers.

We have invested significantly more funding into rail than under the previous system. The benefits of this approach are the £800m investment in brand new trains across the Wales and Borders area, the £1bn transformation of the Core Valley Lines and additional services such as the recently launched Ebbw Vale to Newport services.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We took the decision to protect essential rail services by providing £125m to Transport for Wales in the supplementary budget. Without this funding Transport for Wales would not have been able to maintain the continued operation of all of their rail services and jobs would have been at risk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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Minister for Finance and Local Government