



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06020/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 August 2016

Dear Mike,

P-05-689 Improvements to Railway Provision at Kidwelly

Thank you for your letter of 27 July regarding the above petition you have received.

As outlined in the letter, Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) services calling at Kidwelly station are currently designated by ATW as 'request stops'. I understand that Kidwelly Town Council has written directly to ATW campaigning for this designation to be removed.

I have asked my officials to discuss this issue with ATW. Any such changes to the request stop designation at Kidwelly, however, will need to be considered in relation to the extended journey times that they will cause including the potential impacts on the robustness and reliability of the timetable.

I will ask my officials to ask ATW to look at possible improvements to the way in which request stops are communicated to passengers both on-board and at stations.

I note the petition also makes reference to request stops causing issues "on trains with no conductor". All ATW services are required to have a conductor on board and I consider it to be of the utmost important that on-board staff are visible to passengers. If this is not the case then this should be raised with the company.

I am pleased to be able to report that Kidwelly has benefitted from a significant increase in the number of services calling at the station in recent years including direct long-distance services to Manchester. Currently on weekdays, services calling at Kidwelly significantly exceed the franchise minimum requirement of eight 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.

The power to award the next Wales and Borders Franchise is due to be transferred to the Welsh Ministers by the beginning of 2017. This means that decisions about the services provided as part of the next franchise will be taken in Wales. Transport for Wales (TfW) is undertaking procurement of the franchise on behalf of the Welsh Government and, to ensure the views of passengers are integral to the final specification, a programme of consultation and engagement activities with stakeholders has begun. Inputs from stakeholders, such as the users of Kidwelly station, are encouraged to participate in this process.

With regard to the platform height on the westbound platform, despite rail infrastructure being non-devolved, we are actively looking at designing platform raising humps to assist with low platform height and Kidwelly would be considered with others, if budget becomes available in future years.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure