



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/KS/2392/18

Russell George AM
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

SeneddEIS@assembly.wales

06 July 2018

Dear Russell

Thank you for your letter of 8th June following a letter you have received from the Chair of the Petitions Committee regarding a petition to reopen Carno Station.

Our vision is to improve connectivity and enrich communities through improved transport systems and we are currently moving forward with our ambitious plans to reshape public transport infrastructure and services across Wales. The £2 billion investment proposed by Keolis Amey will play a major part in delivering this vision.

With the exception of the Core Valley Lines which will transfer to Welsh Government's ownership and thus why Keolis Amey are proposing to open new stations on this network, the remainder of the rail infrastructure will continue to be the responsibility of UK Government. Despite this, we continue to develop potential project business cases to bring investment to Wales and fund a programme of rail infrastructure improvements to enable additional and enhanced rail services.

We are using our existing powers and resources to accelerate the chance that rail stations in Wales are in a position to benefit from any station funding opportunities that may come forward from the UK Government. We have been doing this by taking forward the development work to prepare the early stage business case for new stations across Wales including Carno, and it should be noted that any proposal would only likely to be successful in securing funding if it is supported with a sound business case.

The development of a robust business case to support a proposal for a new rail station can be both lengthy and expensive. We have therefore developed a methodology to accelerate the development work that is needed and develop a project pipeline so that, when UK

funding opportunities occur, there are Welsh projects at an appropriate stage of development that can be submitted for consideration and stand the best possible chance to secure funding. We have commissioned Transport for Wales to assist us with this exercise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport