



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-918
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/08110/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

13 November 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October on behalf of the petitions committee regarding access to Treforest train station for disabled people.

My officials have spoken to Transport for Wales (TfW) who have confirmed they are currently developing plans for Treforest station. These plans will bring vastly improved access arrangements and better facilities for customers. TfW's plans include a new accessible footbridge and level boarding providing step-free access from the street, to the train. Construction at the station is expected to begin September 2020.

Delivery of the works at Treforest is integrated with a wider, complex programme of works for the transformation of this part of the rail network (known as the 'Core Valley Lines'), as part of the South Wales Metro project. This is an ambitious, multi-million-pound project, and TfW's current plans will take around five years to complete. TfW have a significant amount construction, engineering and infrastructure work to do to upgrade our rail network so that it's ready for Metro services. These works include electrification of the railway, upgrading all stations and signalling, and building new stations.

I have asked Transport for Wales to explore the possibility of commencing the fund design earlier, which may lead to an earlier construction date. However this cannot be guaranteed due to the complex interdependencies of this project in relation to the wider programme of works.

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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.

Once complete, the Metro will provide customers with quicker, more frequent, more environmentally friendly services on modern, comfortable, accessible Metro trains.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth

Minister for Economy and Transport