



Department
for Transport

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
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From the Minister of State
Chris Heaton-Harris MP

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Our Ref: MC/299685

30 September 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 25 June to Grant Shapps, supporting a new railway station in St Clears. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this area. I apologise for the long delay in responding to you.

The Department for Transport has launched a £500 million Restoring Your Railway Fund. We are inviting MPs, local councils and community groups across England and Wales to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services and restore stations.

There are two areas within the Restoring Your Railway Fund that may be of interest to you. The first is the Ideas Fund, which is about levelling up and improving connections to communities. It is inspired by communities affected by Beeching cuts, but not limited to Beeching line restoration.

The second area within the Restoring Your Railway Fund is the New Station Fund, which you mention in your letter. The New Station Fund will benefit some areas that may never have been served by rail. And this is just the beginning. As we assess and develop schemes, there is the ambition to expand the funding available. Ultimately our plan is to level up local economies across the country, improving access to jobs and education and boosting the wider region.

The criteria for the Ideas Fund are different to the criteria for the New Station Fund. The Ideas Fund is for early stage schemes, whereas the New Station Fund is for much further advanced schemes. It is possible that a scheme will exit from the Ideas Fund once it has progressed to the Strategic Outline Business Case stage to be proposed for further funding from the New Station Fund.

You can find additional information about both of these funds on GOV.UK¹ which you might find useful.

Thank you again for your email raising this matter with me. I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Minister of State for Transport

¹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/restoring-your-railway-fund