

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru	National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes	Enterprise and Business Committee
Ymchwiliad i'r Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer dyfodol Seilwaith y Rheilffyrdd yng Nghymru	Inquiry into the Priorities for the future of Welsh Rail Infrastructure
WRI 18	WRI 18
CITB Cymru Wales	CITB Cymru Wales



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14th January 2016

William Graham AM,
Chair Enterprise and Business
Committee
C/O Martha Da Gama Howells
Clerk, Enterprise and Business
Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Dear William

RE: Inquiry into Priorities for the Future of Welsh Rail Infrastructure

I write in response to your inquiry into the future of Welsh Rail Infrastructure. As the Industry Training Board for Construction, CITB Cymru Wales has an interest in the upskilling of construction workers to deliver maintenance and repair and new rail infrastructure.

At present, rail funding is a non-devolved area however any large infrastructure investment projects, including rail investment, will have a significant impact on skills and training. As you are aware, skills and training are devolved areas and therefore it is vital that Welsh Government has a strategic approach to rail investment projects, as well as capital investment more broadly.

The Welsh Government is currently in the process of reforming the apprenticeship system in Wales and this is likely to have an impact on the delivery of a skilled construction workforce. We would highlight to the Committee that any upskilling or training that needs to be delivered for infrastructure projects typically has a time lag of three years as individuals progress towards qualification. This places an emphasis on appropriate planning of the training and development of the construction workforce in advance to ensure projects, such as rail investment, can be appropriately delivered.

The Welsh Government has developed the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP) as a mapping document for capital investment in Wales. CITB Cymru Wales welcomes this approach and believes it can be developed further by an accompanying skills implementation plan. A similar approach has been adopted by the UK Government in relation to its National Infrastructure Pipeline Plan and the recently published National Infrastructure Plan for Skills. CITB worked closely with HM Treasury in the development of this mapping exercise and could provide similar insight to support the WIIP using our labour market intelligence for Wales.

This is particularly important as the construction sector in Wales is forecast to grow at 5.8% per annum on our most recent Construction Skills Network report analysis. Many of the projects driving this growth are infrastructure related including major capital investments such as Wylfa Newydd and more pertinently for the Committee's inquiry, the electrification of the South Wales Mainline and Valley Lines.

CITB Cymru Wales therefore recommends the committee examine the place of rail infrastructure in the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan and how this can be developed to appropriately plan skills and training interventions.

Yours sincerely



Mark Bodger
Strategic Partnerships Director

About CITB Cymru Wales

CITB Cymru Wales is the sector skills council and industry training board for the construction sector in Wales. Through the CITB Cymru Wales Committee and three regional fora, we work in partnership with government, industry, and education providers to maximise opportunities for skills, training and development within the Welsh construction sector, and to provide the right skills, in the right place, at the right time to support economic growth.