

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/02509/18

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee

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

25 September 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 15 August regarding Petition P-05-833 - Improve rail services for Chepstow.

From December 2022, there will be an increase in train frequency during the Monday to Saturday off peak period from two trains in three hours to one train per hour between Cardiff Central and Chepstow. At the same time, we will be introducing different rolling stock with greater capacity. These will be Class 170s from 2019, and new DMUs from 2022.

The DMUs have a total capacity of 425 (an increase from 292 and 199 in the current two models of rolling stock). In practice, this means from December 2022 there will be additional capacity for 120 towards Cardiff in the morning peak 90 minutes.

From December 2023 there will also be an increase in train frequency on Sunday from 0.5 to one train per hour between Cardiff Central and Chepstow. Transport for Wales intend for there to be investment at Chepstow station from April 2025.

Regarding the Cross Country franchise, my officials have asked the Department for Transport to improve services for passengers at all stations in Wales alongside the strengthening of inter-city connectivity. In particular, they have stated that there must not be any reduction in station calls in Wales made along the Cardiff to Birmingham corridor and – additionally - more trains should stop at Chepstow.

Yours ever,

Ken

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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.