



Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/KS/374/2025

Llyr Gruffyd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

29 July 2025

Dear Llyr

Thank you for your letter of 3 July regarding the UK Government's announcement for rail investment in Wales as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review. I welcome the Committee's interest in this matter and have outlined a response to the Committee's questions below.

1. Can you provide a detailed list of all projects in the pipeline of "rail enhancement priorities identified by the Wales Rail Board", as well as details of which will be funded through the £302 million, the criteria used to prioritise these and the status of the remaining projects?

We have worked alongside the UK Government as part of the joint Wales Rail Board to agree a prioritised pipeline of rail infrastructure enhancements for Wales and the Borders. The total delivery cost of the schemes within the pipeline is in excess of £4bn. A decision will be taken in due course regarding the publication of the pipeline.

On 8 July the UK Government [announced](#) the list of schemes that will be funded as part of the £302m settlement for rail in Wales from the Spending Review. This will support the development and delivery of the priorities of the Wales Rail Board over the 4-year period covered by the Spending Review. This includes funding to progress: Cardiff Central modernisation, South Wales Relief Lines upgrade, Wrexham to Liverpool line congestion relief, Cardiff West Junction Capacity, New stations in South Wales (Burns stations), Accessible footbridges on North Wales Mainline, and unallocated development funding for the Wales Rail Board to identify new priorities.

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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.

2. Could you outline how the £48 million allocation for the Core Valley Lines will be spent, including a list of projects?

The £48 million allocated for the Core Valley Lines covers the 4-year period of the Spending Review (£12m per year) and will be included in the Welsh Government block grant. We will work closely with Transport for Wales to determine priorities and timeline for spend on CVL enhancements over the Spending Review period. This builds on our over £1bn investment to upgrade the CVL and deliver further improvements for passengers.

3. Can you clarify the status of the £95 million allocated under the 10-year Infrastructure Strategy, including how it is expected to be phased and managed?

The UK Government's allocation of £95m under the 10-year Infrastructure Strategy will help to commence or progress rail enhancement priorities in Wales. This signals the UK Government's commitment to invest in Wales now and into the future. We remain in close contact with the UK Government as they determine the phasing and management of their funding.

4. How will the further £95 million funding for rail infrastructure allocated under the Infrastructure Strategy be spent? What criteria will be used to prioritise this funding and which projects are included?

The UK Government is responsible for determining the allocation of their funding for rail in Wales. We continue to work closely via the joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board to progress our shared priorities for rail in Wales aligned to wider government policy.

5. Is funding for Rail Infrastructure for the next decade limited to projects identified as projects that will benefit from the Infrastructure Strategy? If not, is it your expectation that further funding will be made available in future years?

The UK Government's 4-year Spending Review period covers FY2026/27 – FY2029/30. The Infrastructure Strategy outlines the UK Government's commitment to ensuring that plans for future investment in rail in Wales will be made in close consultation with the Welsh Government.

6. What role will the Wales Rail Board play in future, including in the delivery of projects under the two funding streams?

The joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board will oversee the delivery of the priorities funded by the Spending Review. Decisions on which delivery body is best placed to take forward each of these priorities has not been decided.

7. What plans are in place for rail enhancement projects beyond the current three-year Spending Review period? Could you provide an outline of the funding needed to deliver the Welsh Government's longer-term rail strategy? How will projects that are not funded under the Infrastructure Strategy be funded?

The joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board has developed a pipeline of enhancements for rail infrastructure for Wales and the Borders across the short-, medium- and long-term. These projects encompass both devolved and non-devolved infrastructure and we will continue to work together as governments to identify and secure appropriate funding. The total delivery cost of the schemes within the pipeline is in excess of £4bn.

8. How is the Welsh Government engaging with the UK Government to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding model for rail infrastructure beyond the period of this Spending Review?

Welsh Government Ministers and officials work with UK Government counterparts through the Wales Rail Board to agree and prioritise funding for rail infrastructure in Wales and the Borders. It has already agreed a prioritised pipeline of rail infrastructure enhancements for the settlement from the Spending Review. This is just the start of the process to address historic underfunding of rail in Wales and, whilst this marks a significant and welcome step forward, we will continue to make the case for further investment.

If there is anything further you require, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales