



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Assembly Members

25 November 2013

Dear Assembly Member

I noted the exchange at the Enterprise and Business Committee on 21 November in regard to the TEN-T framework and I wanted to take the opportunity to put the record straight.

The Welsh Government has been actively engaged in discussion about the new TEN-T framework since 2010.

Our priority has been to ensure that we maximise the opportunity for funding by ensuring that key routes and hubs are included on the Core Network map. It is inclusion on the Core Network that defines access to funding.

Through our engagement in the process we have secured the inclusion of additional routes and hubs in the Core Network, for example earlier this year the Commission confirmed the inclusion of the rail passenger route to Holyhead.

Inclusion on a Corridor does not affect our ability to bid for funding, as the Commission confirmed. The Corridors are a mechanism to aid implementation of projects and are particularly relevant for routes that cross multiple Member States on one land mass. This is less relevant for the UK.

If what the Commission officials have said about the removal of Wales from the UK Corridor is true, that is regrettable. However, the Commission did confirm that we will still be able to access the data and advice available for a corridor if we wish, and we will do so if that is to Wales' advantage.

We are focusing our effort on making the most of this investment opportunity and securing support for projects in Wales. The Welsh Core Network includes the Crewe-Holyhead main line and we are already developing a business case for investment. Discussions on the possibility of TEN-T funding to support the development of this project have already started. Similarly, improvements to the rail line beyond Swansea were pre-notified to the Commission and included on the list of potential projects recently published by the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M.', written in a cursive style.