

Andrew Davies AM/AC
Minister for Economic Development & Transport
Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth

Your ref/Eich cyf:
Our ref/Ein cyf: WAQ27939

DP 408103-07

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24 September 2003

Further to my holding reply to your written Assembly Question 27939

Since taking over the Transport portfolio, I have met with the Chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), Richard Bowker, the Chairman of Network Rail, Ian McAllister, and the Managing Director of the current Wales and Borders franchise, Peter Strachan. At each meeting I have taken the opportunity to discuss progress on a number of major rail projects in Wales and am looking forward to holding a similar meeting with the incoming Arriva franchise management team.

The 2003 Business Plan produced by Network Rail shows that the renewal of signalling in the Port Talbot East to Bridgend area is planned for delivery in 2005/06. My officials are aware that Network Rail's project to renew the Port Talbot signalling panel has an impact on a number of Assembly Government funded rail schemes. Regular meetings with the SRA, Network Rail and the train operators are therefore being held to ensure that there is a proper interface between the various projects.