



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ95379

Janet Finch-Saunders

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23 January 2025

Dear Janet,

I am writing in response to your written question reference, WQ95379 'What lessons has the Welsh Government learnt from recent infrastructure failures in north Wales?'.

Recent storms and bad weather have impacted key infrastructure in north Wales. This has included the closure of the Port of Holyhead due to the damage caused by Storm Darragh and significant damage to railway lines, including the landslip near Gobowen and flooding on the Conwy Valley Line. The impacts of climate change will put more pressure on valuable assets, and we have learnt some valuable lessons.

As a result of the closure of the Port of Holyhead, we saw the rapid delivery of significant additional passenger and goods capacity on services re-routed via Fishguard and Pembroke Dock, as well as some additional freight capacity provided via ports in the North West of England. I am delighted that the Port of Holyhead is once again open for business at full capacity.

The Welsh Government has always recognised the strategic significance of Holyhead and alongside the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, I intend to establish a Welsh Government led multi-stakeholder task force to develop a new strategy for the future of Holyhead. Minister Lawless from the Irish Government has kindly agreed to join me in driving forward this project. I made a commitment to the multi-stakeholder task force in a statement on the Port of Holyhead in our Senedd Plenary on 7th January, followed by a press release, both of which can be found here: [Plenary 07/01/2025 - Welsh Parliament](#); [Welsh Government announces task force to maintain long-term stability for Holyhead Port | GOV.WALES](#).

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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.

Regarding rail infrastructure, it is vital that Network Rail have the funding needed to improve the resilience of the rail network in Wales. I am working closely with the UK Government to secure increased investment in rail in Wales, including improving infrastructure that will enable 50% more TfW timetabled services on the North Wales Main Line in 2026.

Yours sincerely

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

Ken Skates AS/MS

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