



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ98029

Peredur Owen Griffiths, MS

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04 February 2026

Dear Peredur

On 21 January 2026 you tabled a written question in the Senedd asking: *What discussions is the Cabinet Secretary having with the UK Government to ensure fair consequential funding to Wales from the Northern Powerhouse rail project?* (WQ98029).

What discussions is the Cabinet Secretary having with the UK Government to ensure fair consequential funding to Wales from the Northern Powerhouse rail project? (WQ98029)

Back in 2018, the Welsh Government commissioned Professor Mark Barry to conduct a study into what the rail network in Wales requires in order to fully serve the needs of citizens. In his report 'The Rail Network in Wales - The Case for Investment' he championed cross-border rail and the need to invest both in North Wales and in the North of England in the interests of Welsh citizens.

The planned upgrades for Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) align with the 2018 report and will bring major improvements to the railway in England, unlocking vital capacity on the West Coast Main Line and offering opportunities for enhanced cross-border connectivity between North Wales and major destinations including Manchester Airport and Chester. This will also complement and build on our plans for Network North Wales, underlining the continued importance of partnership working between the Welsh and UK Governments.

I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport, Heidi Alexander requesting that North Wales is included in the programme of work for the delivery of the Economic Strategy for the Northern Growth Corridor. I have also proposed that a study is jointly commissioned between the Welsh Government and the Department for Transport as a separate component of the Northern Growth Corridor work. This would establish the benefits of NPR for North Wales and appraise the benefits of running NPR services into North 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.

We will continue to engage closely with key stakeholders and partners including local leaders across the region and in North West England to ensure that our collective investment delivers maximum benefits for passengers.

Yours sincerely

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

Ken Skates AS/MS

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