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Ann Jones
Equality of Opportunity Committee
Cardiff Bay
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Inquiry into the Accessibility of railway stations in Wales

Dear Ann

Thank you for the opportunity for the Partnership to respond to this inquiry.

Three railway stations under this Partnership are in Wales, namely Wrexham General, Ruabon & Chirk.

Some important issues to consider with relation to these areas/stations.

1. All three stations have seen year on year increases in passenger numbers—many way above the national averages.
2. Two years ago a direct London service was introduced by Open Access operator Wrexham & Shropshire Railways which serve all three stations.
3. Last year we had the announcement that the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct had gained World Heritage status.

Wrexham General station is DDA compliant and under the NSIP scheme will see a lift serve the Bidston line on platform. A staffed booking office operates however no staff are available other than the person in the booking office to offer additional assistance on the platforms.

Chirk & Ruabon—Both are unstaffed but have seen considerable WAG and local authority funding to improve facilities with bus/rail interchanges, CIS, car parking and at Chirk CCTV. However one platform is not step free and severely restricts both visitors and residents who are less mobile, disabled or have children in prams.

We are also excluding a wide range of visitors to an area which is being proactively being marketed as a tourism destination. We are also restricting own residents to journey and work opportunities due to a lack of step free access.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Sheila Dee