

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM  
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-256  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/DFM/0081/11  
Christine Chapman AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

28 March 2011

Dear Christine,

### **Petitions Committee P-03-256 – Additional Trains to Fishguard**

I last wrote to you about the Petitions Committee and additional trains to Fishguard on 25 October. In that letter I said that my officials were refreshing the previous business case and that I would write to you again with details of the findings when the refreshed business case is available.

I am pleased to be able to enclose a copy of the refreshed business case report with this letter.

In order to perform the business case calculations, ATW produced costings and a draft timetable. The timetable is workable, but we are seeking to develop a number of alternative options with ATW, on which we will then consult the local community and user groups.

It is fair to say that demand for additional Fishguard services remains an unknown quantity. There is no proven accurate demand forecasting that can predict whether additional services would be taken up, and if they were, whether they would be used for commuter or leisure/social purposes, or what the likely levels of patronage would be.

Nonetheless, there are some positive considerations within the business case refresh, and I have also considered the range and weight of support for additional services from within the local community, as expressed in Committee and Plenary, and elsewhere.

I am pleased therefore to confirm that I have decided to fund five additional train services in both directions, Monday – Saturdays, which are in addition to the two current boat train services. These additional services will commence in September 2011.

We will undertake a review of the services after the third year of the scheme to identify demand and passenger numbers, the nature of trips taken, and will at that time seek further community and user views.

The community consultation on the timetable will begin in April, and will last for two months.

I am pleased to be able to deliver these rail improvements for the people of South West Wales. I hope that the additional trains will indeed be popular.

I am grateful for the Committee's contribution to this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ieuan'.

**Ieuan Wyn Jones**

Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for the Economy and Transport