



Eich cyf/Your ref AS  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/01683/25

Cynghorydd Ioan Thomas  
Cadeirydd y Cyngor  
Cyngor Gwynedd

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23 October 2025

Dear Cllr Thomas,

Thank you for your letter of 09 October regarding Cyngor Gwynedd's motion to call on the Welsh Government to insist that the Welsh Rail Network is fully devolved.

In response to your comments about the East West Rail (the Oxford to Cambridge railway line), I can confirm that every rail scheme in England and Wales is developed as part of the Railway Network Enhancement Pipeline. To date, East West Rail been identified as comparable in the Statement of Funding Policy.

In the period since 2 June, the Treasury (HMT) identified the classification of East West Rail as a potential mistake and are in discussion with the Department for Transport on this matter. HMT will consider how all this impacts on overall comparability but have confirmed that we have the same comparability factors as were used in the Autumn Budget at the Spending Review.

This example illustrates the challenges and vagaries of the existing Barnett system and why we are seeking fundamental reform of Wales' rail operating model, including establishing an empowered Wales and Borders Business Unit within Great British Railways that is properly accountable to the Welsh Ministers, alongside a greater voice on rail services operating to and from 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.

Full devolution of rail infrastructure alongside a fair funding settlement remains our longer-term ambition but we recognise that this is a process to be achieved through working in partnership with the UK Government to deliver much needed reform to the rail industry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

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