



The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport

Ein cyf/Our ref PO/MH/00010/26

1 June 2026

Dear Heidi

I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed Deputy Minister for Transport in the Welsh Government. Thank you for your recent letters regarding the HS2 Parliamentary Report and the Civil Aviation Bill, which we will respond to separately.

Our government is committed to making Wales a better-connected nation, recognising the vital role that transport plays in connecting communities and improving people's lives. Across my portfolio, I am focused on delivering outcomes that strengthen connections to all parts of Wales, support decarbonisation and ensure transport investment delivers tangible benefits for Welsh communities.

I look forward to developing a constructive and positive working relationship with you and the Department for Transport. Several areas within my portfolio intersect directly with UK Government responsibilities, and I am committed to working collaboratively on these areas to ensure that Wales's interests are fully reflected in UK-wide policy and investment decisions. In doing so, I am keen that our engagement builds on shared priorities while recognising Wales's distinct needs and circumstances.

On rail, the First Minister of Wales has already set out this government's objective of agreeing fair funding for Wales and a clear pathway to the full devolution of rail. In parallel with this ambition, I am committed to working constructively with you on several immediate issues, including considerations and consequences for Wales arising from the Railways Bill, as well as agreeing shared priorities for rail infrastructure enhancements through the Wales Rail Board.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno 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.

I am also keen to discuss Transport for Wales' proposal for a new service connecting West Wales with Bristol. This service would go some way to increase much needed capacity on a busy route, in advance of the delivery of the six new stations between Cardiff and Bristol which UK Government has committed to. I was therefore disappointed to learn about Great Western Railway's objection to these plans. I would be grateful for your clarification on these objections and to discuss how we can work collectively to improve passenger services on both sides of the Severn.

I am concerned about the impacts of the ongoing Middle East crisis on transport systems, supply chains and passenger confidence, and I welcome the Department for Transport's commitment to cross-government working on this issue. I believe there is value in continued close coordination between our governments to understand and respond to these impacts, particularly where they affect connectivity, resilience and affordability for passengers.

In supporting this collaborative approach, I welcome the role of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Transport in providing a structured forum for us to discuss shared challenges and priorities across the four nations, and I am keen that this continues to operate in a way that supports meaningful joint working and timely decision-making.

I would welcome early engagement to discuss our respective priorities. I would be keen for an early meeting with Lord Hendy given the importance of collaboration on rail. I would also like to meet with you to discuss broader transport issues and how we can work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for Wales and the wider UK transport system. My office would be very happy to liaise with yours to arrange suitable times.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hooper AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog dros Drafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Transport