



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Nick Smith
Regional Growth Manager – Liverpool and Wales
Avanti West Coast
6th Floor Rail House
Lord Nelson Street
Liverpool
L1 1JF

3 October 2022

Dear Nick

As you will be aware from a letter sent to you last week from my North Wales MPs colleagues, there is serious concern about the service that Avanti West Coast has been providing on the North Wales Mainline.

I share these concerns, in particular the reduction in service between Wrexham General and London Euston. As you will know, I have continuously lobbied Avanti for a seven-day through service for my constituents to London. After my letter to you in February 2022, I was pleased to receive assurances of a seven-day through service between Wrexham and London Euston, avoiding changes at Crewe and Chester by December 2022. Unfortunately, that is now unlikely.

Recent information confirmed that Avanti plans to restore the majority of services between London and the North Wales Coast by December 2022, and two-thirds of the through services between London and Chester. Given that the service provision was too low to begin with, the restoration of two-thirds of the service is far below acceptable.

Now that Wrexham is a city, and in fact the largest city in North Wales, it needs transport connectivity to reflect that of the capital of North Wales. Currently, there is little reliability in the quality and frequency of trains between Wrexham and London Euston. The through services that are currently provided, such as the 0703 and 1810 are frequently cancelled, or require last minute changes and replacement buses. If Avanti are successful in getting the franchise renewed later this month, I would urge you to focus both on the frequency of services and ensuring they run as billed.

I would be grateful for your assurances that direct services between Wrexham and London Euston will be reintroduced and more frequent as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Atherton".

Sarah Atherton MP
Member of Parliament for Wrexham