

Lee Waters MS
Deputy Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
T? Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

26 June 2023

Dear Minister,

RE: Independent Review of Transport for Wales Service in North Wales

I recently received a copy of a letter written by Rail Users' Associations covering Merseyside, Cheshire, Shropshire, Wrexham, and Flintshire, highlighting their serious concerns about Transport for Wales' (TfW) failing service.

As you know, Transport for Wales is owned by the Welsh Labour Government, which operates a North-East cross-rail service. This service is overcrowded; using dirty, old rolling stock; fraught with severe delays and cancellations; and with poor communication from the train operator. **The Rail Users' Associations conclude, as do I, that Transport for Wales has failed service users.**

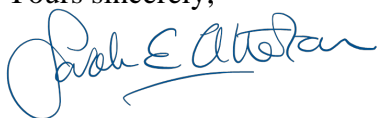
During a recent meeting with a Transport for Wales representative, I was told that the situation involving rolling stock was a 'perfect storm' – with each different train class experiencing its own problems. Passenger data similarly shows that TfW is operating at 67% of pre-pandemic levels – putting them in the bottom half of all operators.

On 8 June 2023, I raised this issue on the floor of the House of Commons with the Leader of the House, Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP. I understand from her response that you met recently with the UK Government Rail Minister, Huw Merriman MP, to discuss what actions be taken to improve the services. Following this meeting, **I would be grateful to know what actions you intend to take to rectify the situation.**

Due to the concerns mentioned above, in addition to those raised with me by constituents, who are outraged with the service provided, **I am writing to you to call for an independent review of the Transport for Wales service in North Wales.**

As the responsible Welsh Government Minister, I hope that you will support my request so that my Wrexham constituents can start to receive the service they deserve, rather than the 'Cattle Class' they have sadly come to expect.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Atherton
Member of Parliament for Wrexham