



CHRIS ELMORE MP

Member of Parliament for Ogmore

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Wales Office
Gwydyr House
Westminster
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22 August 2017

Re: Rail Infrastructure in Wales

We, the undersigned, are writing to you in your roles as Transport Secretary and Welsh Secretary respectively to express our anger and disappointment at your Government's continued neglect of rail transport infrastructure in South Wales.

We believe your unwillingness to recognise funding gaps in the network is causing Wales to be left behind, and we call upon you to address the situation urgently with additional investment.

The recent announcement that you will be renegeing on your promise to electrify the Great Western Mainline from Cardiff to Swansea forms part of a series of failures to provide adequate funding for transport in our region. Whilst we appreciate that electrification of the rail link between Newport and Cardiff is going ahead, we strongly feel that investment must benefit the whole of South Wales, including those communities who rely upon accessing a good mainline service from branch lines throughout the region.

Your refusal to provide adequate funding for enhancements and upgrades to the Wales route over the last few years has allowed our railways to fall behind other UK regions. Despite having 11 percent of England and Wales track, the Wales route has received only around 1.5 percent of UK Government funding for rail upgrades since 2011. Most recently, your failure to confirm vital funding for the new Wales and Borders franchise agreement, which has cast doubt upon the future of the new South Wales Metro project, is of significant concern to us. We would urge you to work constructively with the Welsh Government to fill the £1 billion funding gap and ensure passengers in Wales get the services they deserve.

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We are calling on you to stop letting Wales down and urge the Government to reverse the decision to renege on electrification to Swansea; address the historical underfunding of the Welsh railway network, and honour the funding agreement you made with the Welsh Government in 2014 to secure a sustainable new Wales and Borders franchise agreement. We have noted your Government's recent commitment to the £30 billion Crossrail 2 project and therefore believe it is difficult to justify your recent decision to end investment in rail infrastructure across South Wales.

We ask you to urgently address these concerns and provide the investment that our region needs and deserves.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Elmore MP, Chair-elect of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail in Wales

Christina Rees MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales

Tonia Antoniazzi MP

Kevin Brennan MP

Chris Bryant MP

Ann Clwyd MP

Wayne David MP

Geraint Davies MP

Stephen Doughty MP

Chris Evans MP

Paul Flynn MP

Nia Griffith MP

Carolyn Harris MP

Gerald Jones MP

Stephen Kinnock MP

Anna McMorrin MP

Madeleine Moon MP

Jessica Morden MP

Nick Smith MP

Owen Smith MP

Jo Stevens MP

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP