

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Andrew R T Davies AM
Assembly Member for South Wales Central

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Dear Andrew,

Further to your question to the Leader of the House during the Business Statement on 16 October, I am writing regarding the new Class 769 trains.

As part of the new rail service, Transport for Wales (TfW) is committed to improving the quality and quantity of rolling stock and increasing capacity on the network. Considerable work is being undertaken to ensure the process of upgrading the fleet is handled as efficiently as possible with minimal disruption to customer journeys. A lack of available diesel rolling stock in the UK has made this particularly challenging, but in 2017 it was agreed that we would acquire five innovative bi-mode Class 769 trains to support the existing fleet.

TfW recognise the importance of providing relief to overcrowding and introducing additional services across Wales, and are working hard with the industry to secure additional Sunday services in North Wales and more early start weekday services in South Wales from December 2018, and to launch the new Chester-Liverpool service from May 2019. They are undertaking an extensive review of operations and maintenance processes with Transport for Wales Rail Services and Network Rail to ensure that rolling stock is available and that the timetable can accommodate these extra services, while also completing essential maintenance and upgrades.

TfW have a dedicated project team working on the Class 769s to ensure a smooth introduction into service, and are now expecting arrival of these trains in the first half of 2019, along with five Class 230 trains, which will significantly boost capacity.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

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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.