

Ken Skates MS

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Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament



Rail reform back on track after partnership agreement

Ministers in Wales and Westminster will work together to reform the railway and improve infrastructure to deliver better services for passengers.

I met with UK Government Rail Minister, Lord Hendy, in London this week to discuss the Welsh Government's priorities. These include delivering on commitments to create a Welsh enhancements programme and giving Wales a greater say on cross-border services.

We've committed to working in partnership, alongside the rail industry, and the decision finally calls time on the broken franchising system.

I'm excited about the UK Government's plans for reform. It means the Wales and Borders rail service will remain in public hands – making it easier to integrate rail with bus and deliver on our vision of One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket.

I am also working closely with the UK Government to develop a programme of future rail infrastructure enhancements in Wales. [Read more](#)



Clwyd South report



A major project to transform the former Brymbo Ironworks site into a unique tourist attraction has cleared its final hurdle. Brymbo Heritage Trust has been granted permission to start on the Stori Brymbo project, which will move from the swamp forests of 300 million years ago through the industrial processes which followed on the site. A new community parkland space - Lodge Valley Park - will also be created. I enjoyed visiting the site to catch up with some of the team.

The National Tourism Awards will return in 2025, and I'm encouraging businesses in Clwyd South to apply. There are 12 categories and the winners of the Regional Awards this year will go through to the National Awards in March. Local businesses need to apply to the Go North Wales Awards first - more information is available [here](#) and the closing date is October 7. Good luck!



I've written to the Arts Council of Wales in support of Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod's bid for funding for the 2025 event, which I hope will be successful.

Welsh Government updates



A new Bovine TB Eradication Programme Board has been established for Wales and is the latest development in reaching the shared goal of a TB-free Wales. [Read more](#)



Last year councils in North Wales were awarded £966,000 to deliver small Property Development Grants (PDGs) to improve empty buildings in town centres. [Read more](#)



Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Jane Hutt, has unveiled free new booklets which will help Welsh learners of all levels learn more about Cadw sites. [Read more](#)



Written Statement: The outcome of the consultation on changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. [Read more](#)



Written Statement: Investigating and learning from cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19. [Read more](#)



A new Welsh Government policy sets out how learning and skills will be improved in Welsh prisons. [Read more](#)



Social Care Minister Dawn Bowden has heard how Welsh Government funding is helping people to live and age well. [Read more](#)



Youth work services in Wrexham are helping young people to thrive by providing a range of services from two city centre facilities, including face-to face-support, homelessness prevention and drug and alcohol services. [Read more](#)