

Ken Skates MS

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Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament



Upgrades will see 50% increase in rail services

Safety upgrades and a major rail capacity boost planned are planned for the North Wales Mainline - as well as an £800m investment in new trains ([read more](#)).

Transport for Wales will increase rail capacity by 40%, with 50% more timetabled services, supported by the recruitment of extra drivers and crew. The announcement was made in Flint last week.

I'm delighted we now have firm plans in place to deliver this massive increase in rail capacity for North Wales.



It shows what partnership working can deliver - at industry level through Network Rail and Transport for Wales and with a UK Government in Westminster working with the Welsh Government.

Secretary of State for Wales, Jo Stevens, said: "Working alongside the Welsh Government, we are determined to make major improvements to rail services right across Wales. The unlocking of increased rail capacity in North Wales is just the beginning."

Clwyd South report



A project that will see a heritage site tread has been awarded a £300,000 Welsh Government grant. The Brymbo Heritage Trust will transform the former ironworks and steelworks into a unique tourist attraction.

Read more

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.



Clwyd East MP Becky Gittins and I are pushing for a meeting with town councillors to explore every avenue to keep the public toilets open in Llangollen.

[Read more](#)

Following recent representations I made to Wrexham Council about the state of the A528 in Overton, it has been announced that a new resurfacing project will be carried out from next week. [Read more](#)

Welsh Government updates



As children return for the new school year, the Welsh Government has confirmed that all pupils in maintained primary schools across Wales are now able to receive a free school meal from this week. [Read more](#)



As the new academic year begins, young people aged 16 to 25 and school staff across Wales have the opportunity to learn Cymraeg for free. [Read more](#)



The Welsh Government has announced a new £10m capital grant scheme to support the development of Smart Local Energy Systems (SLES) across Wales. The initiative is a key part of Wales's goal of generating 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2035. [Read more](#)



The Welsh Government is providing a further £5m to support and protect Wales' culture and sport bodies, as well as Cadw. [Read more](#)



The Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Culture, Heritage and Sport Fund has opened for applications for capital grants. [Read more here](#) and get information on eligibility [here](#).



The Welsh Government has worked with pet charity Blue Cross and police to tackle dog attacks on livestock. [Read more](#) - After cases of bluetongue in England, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales has urged farmers to be alert. [Read more](#)