

CAROLYN THOMAS

NORTH WALES | GOGLEDD CYMRU



The RT. Hon. Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minister House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR



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Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP,

Re: HS2 Funding for Wales

I am writing to you as Member of the Senedd for North Wales in relation to the UK Government's refusal to allocate a penny of the £96 billion budget for HS2 to Wales.

Under current proposals, the Welsh taxpayer is funding a project that offers no direct benefit to them. Scotland is receiving £10 billion of funding from the HS2 budget and Wales should be entitled to around £5 billion. According to the Wales Governance Centre, from 2011 to 2019, Wales has received a total of £514 million less than it should have received under a population-based share of the UK's rail infrastructure spending.

The refusal to provide such funding continues a pattern of systematic neglect of Welsh rail infrastructure by the Westminster government. Public transport is vital to any serious attempt to tackle climate change; it can drive economic advancement and social inclusion for the groups in society who need it most, whilst helping to drive down emissions.

The underfunding of Welsh public transport and the neglectful attitude shown in relation to HS2 funding undermines the government's commitment to a cohesive United Kingdom.

Shorter journey times between English cities is, at best, a tangential benefit to the people of Wales. Taking an hour off a journey between Manchester and London (200 miles) offers little respite for the people of North Wales, where a train journey between Holyhead and Cardiff takes 5 hours (199 miles).

I would urge you to reconsider the Welsh funding element of the HS2 budget so that the Welsh taxpayer receives their fair share of this investment in the UK's rail infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely,

Carolyn Thomas, Member of the Senedd for North Wales

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