

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/03162/23

Cllr Vernon Smith  
Chairman  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Shire Hall  
Westgate Street  
Gloucester  
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16 January 2024

Dear Cllr Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December about Gloucestershire County Council's concerns about rail fares between Chepstow/Lyndney and Gloucester. I recognise the significant public interest in the cost of rail travel and appreciate the complexity of the existing fares structure may be a source of some frustration to passengers. We are working with Transport for Wales to address this and to make the system simpler.

At present, there is a long-standing zonal system in place and the cost of travel on this part of the network is calculated according to the number of zones the passenger passes through, rather than the distance of the journey itself.

Recognising there is work to be done across the Wales and Borders network to simplify fares, Transport for Wales is working to evaluate existing ticket products and introduce a new fares system. This work is being carried out in phases and the Maesteg-Cheltenham Spa line will be included. It is important to note that reducing fares in isolation (in this case, between specific points along the Maesteg-Cheltenham Spa line) may cause anomalies, meaning this work must be completed for the network as a whole to ensure fairness for all.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

This important work will ensure that the cost of rail travel is as low as possible for passengers and allow for better integration between rail and bus services. It should ultimately address the concerns you have raised and resolve the long-standing anomalies encountered on this part of the network as a result of the existing zones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid