

Date issued: 12 November 2020

Freedom of Information Request

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our information access policy.

You asked for the following information:

1. What plans are there - if any - for increasing the number of trains on the Coryton line from two trains an hour to four an hour?
2. Have plans previously been drawn up to boost the number of hourly services? If so, what was the outcome?
3. If there are plans to increase the number of trains on the Coryton Line what is the timescale for improving services?
4. What is Transport for Wales' long-term goal/vision for the Coryton Line?
5. Will new trains be used on this line and when it is planned to introduce them?
6. What is the estimated cost of any increase in train services on the Coryton Line from two to four an hour?
7. What plans are there for connecting the Coryton Line with the Taff Vale line at Radyr/Taffs Well?
8. If there are plans, what is the timescale for improving services along these lines?
9. What is the estimated cost of any scheme?

Having reviewed your questions, we are able to provide the following information:

In response to question 1:

Our Train Planning team continuously review the number of services on each line, working with stakeholders to inform the planning process. We are not currently in a position to increase the number of trains on the Coryton line from two to four trains an hour, as we focus on the situation arising as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, the Coryton Line is included in our ongoing work building the South Wales Metro and customers using the line will ultimately benefit from the significant investment being made to upgrade the services on our Core Valley Lines. Work will take around five years to complete and full details can be found on our website at:

<https://trc.cymru/south-wales-metro>

In response to questions 2 & 3:

Proposals to increase the number of hourly services are included in the Business Case for the South Wales Metro. As stated in our answer to question 1, full details can be found on our website at:

<https://trc.cymru/south-wales-metro>. Further details concerning the service in your general area

(South East Wales) can also be found on our website at: <https://trc.cymru/whats-happening-south-east-wales>

In response to question 4:

Transport for Wales does not have a long-term vision or goal for any one line in isolation from the rest of the network. Instead, Transport for Wales has an ambitious vision for a high quality, safe, integrated, affordable and accessible rail network across Wales which will see new services and rolling stock, as well as a massive programme of station investment. Improvements to the service on the Coryton Line fall under the plans to build the South Wales Metro and as stated in our answer to question 1, full details of the project can be found on our website at: <https://trc.cymru/south-wales-metro>

In response to question 5:

We are making a significant investment to upgrade to our rolling stock as part of our plans to build the South Wales Metro. Details of the trains we will introduce can be found on our website at: <https://trc.cymru/trains-and-stations>

In response to questions 6 & 9:

We are unable to provide an itemised cost for a single service, such as the service on the Coryton Line. This is because the majority of the costs of operating the railway are fixed (staff, lease costs etc), making it very difficult to isolate and provide a true cost of a single service. Details of the total amount being invested to build the South Wales Metro and improve/increase services on the Core Valley Lines can be found on our website at <https://trc.cymru/south-wales-metro>.

In response to question 7 & 8:

There are currently no plans to connect the Coryton Line with the Taff Vale line at Radyr/Taff's Well and as such, there are no timescales to provide.

We hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Transport for Wales