**Date issued:** 23 September 2022

**Freedom of Information Request**

We are 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 Data and Information Management Policy.

**Your Questions Answered**

1. **When will the new Class 197s be introduced on the Liverpool to Chester route?**

The new Class 197s will be introduced on the Liverpool <> Chester route this autumn on a temporary basis as part of driver training. It’s likely that the Class 197s will entire into permanent passenger service from mid-2023, though this is yet to be confirmed. The reason for this is that the need to retain some flexibility here, because the Liverpool <> Chester route can be operated with a variety of rolling stock, whereas other routes can’t.

1. **With the December 2022 timetable now being confirmed, will the Liverpool to Chester route revert back to being hourly?**

It is unlikely that this will be possible from December 2022 timetable and is likely to take place in Spring 2023. Confirmation of the date will be issued in the coming weeks, with public communications issued to confirm.

1. **When will you introduce hourly trains to from Liverpool to Llandudno and Shrewsbury?**
2. **When will you introduce trains every two hours from Liverpool to Cardiff?**

We plan to deliver an hourly Liverpool <> Llandudno service as of the December 2023 timetable, and an hourly Liverpool <> Shrewsbury service from December 2024 timetable. This hourly Liverpool <> Shrewsbury service will be extended to/from Cardiff every two hours from December 2024 timetable.

1. **When operating from Liverpool to Llandudno, Shrewsbury and Cardiff, will these services be provided by two separate trains from Liverpool, or by just one train split at Chester to those destinations?**

This would be one train that would split at Chester to continue to Llandudno and Shrewsbury/Cardiff respectively. The return service from these destinations would then attach to form the Chester <> Liverpool section.

We trust this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Transport for Wales**

**Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at either Transport for Wales, 3 Llys Cdwyn, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH or freedomofinformation@tfw.wales. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".