**Date issued:** 4th of October 2024

**Freedom of Information Request 265/24**

**You asked us…**

1. **How much money does TFW expect to save with the following service alterations (please breakdown how these savings are calculated i.e Fuel costs, Train crew, etc.?)**

**a) Running a full hourly service between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury Between May and September compared with running it all year round?**

**b)Not running the 20:26 Pwllheli to Machynlleth and 21:47 Machynlleth - Pwllheli between December and March.**

**c)Removing the 05:07 Machynlleth to Barmouth and the 06:45 Barmouth to Machynlleth**

1. **With all 197's being 'ETCS ready', is it possible to swap ETCS equipment from one unit to another? For example during summer, swapping ETCS equipment from 6 2 cars into 6 of the 3 cars ?**
2. **As the 2 car 197's have less seated capacity than the 2 car 158's, how does TFW plan to deal with the summertime overcrowding that is seen on the Cambrian coastline, outside of the 2 services a day (each way) that are planned to be run as 4 cars?**
3. **Are there any plans to re-time the Cambrian mainline or Cambrian coastline when the 197's are introduced? If so, is the aim to reduce journey time, or something else?**

**RESPONSE**

Question 1

a.) Running a full hourly service between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury Between May and September compared with running it all year round

Traincrew:                          £262k

Fuel:                                    £343k

Fleet Maintenance:        £500k

Track Usage Charge:     £72k

**Total:                                £1,177k per annum**

b.) Not running the 20:26 Pwllheli to Machynlleth and 21:47 Machynlleth - Pwllheli between December and March

Traincrew:                       £35k

Fuel:                                  £17k

Fleet Maintenance:       £24k

Track Usage Charge:    £4k

**Total:                               £80k per annum**

c.) Removing the 05:07 Machynlleth to Barmouth and the 06:45 Barmouth to Machynlleth

Traincrew:                       £136k

Fuel:                                  £24k

Fleet Maintenance:       £35k

Track Usage Charge:    £5k

**Total:                                £200k per annum**

These are forecast savings for financial year 2026.

Question 2

In theory, this is possible, but practically its not really viable. It was never the intention to swap ETCS equipment between units. It would take some time to move and then test the equipment on each unit to complete necessary safety validation, and during this time each train would not be available for passenger service – meaning we’d have to withdraw services. A bigger constraint is that the maintenance facility at Machynlleth (which will continue to maintain all trains operating west of Shrewsbury on the Cambrian line) can only accommodate two-car units.

Question 3

Transport for Wales will be doubling capacity on 4 key Cambrian Coast services from summer 2025 from 2 carriages to 4 carriages to support locals, tourists, and key local tourism businesses. This will mean there are 560 more seats on Cambrian Coast services during the summer in comparison to Summer 2022.​

Question 4

There are no plans to immediately retime services following cl.197 introduction. The intention is to allow a sufficient period for our Traincrew to become familiar with the trains, then collect data on run-times, and then revise the timetable to reflect real-world performance. We won’t be able to *significantly* accelerate journeys because trains will still have to pass at locations with passing loops, but we do expect to make minor changes which will benefit performance.

We hope 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 Cadwyn, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH or [freedomofinformation@tfw.wales](mailto: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".