

**Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passenger Association  
(SARPA)**

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**Sent by E Mail.**

**To: Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Lembit Opik MP  
Elfin Llwyd MP  
Mark Williams MP**

**Mick Bates AM  
Nicholas Bourne AM  
Elin Jones AM  
Kirsty Willaims AM**

Dear Member of Parliament/ Assembly Member,

**Campaigning for an Hourly Service on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth line.**

An old subject that has been discussed many times; but in light of recent information needs revisiting with some urgency. SARPA have had private informal discussions with officials from Transport Wales who have voiced their concerns that the level of campaigning for the hourly service has dropped off.

They fear that since the Deputy First Ministers announcement of the infrastructure works associated with allowing increased frequency of trains on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth line that too many parties have assumed that the hourly service will follow on automatically. This is not the case and the priority is improved performance for the existing service not additional services. Unless voices are heard from Mid Wales lobbying hard then the scheme will be sidelined once more.

Whilst the Mid Wales transport consortia TraCC are in the process of formulating their Regional Transport Plan and developing a business case for the hourly service it was put to us that any decision to go ahead in the short or medium term needs a political green light from Cardiff Bay. Civil Servants within Transport Wales are broadly supportive of the scheme but as it will involve initially increased revenue subsidy to the train operator it has to be seen as a political priority which currently its not. Other parts of Wales are already campaigning for their favoured schemes meaning that Mid Wales and the Borders could yet again lose out.

I would implore you all too once more take up the issue to raise it higher up the agenda with WAG. I have attached a briefing note on the case for an hourly service.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Marston.  
Chairman, SARPA. Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passenger Association.