



OFFICE OF RAIL REGULATION

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13 August 2008

Aerona Hawkins  
Rail and New Roads Division  
Transport Wales  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Dear Ms Hawkins

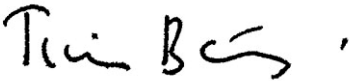
**Abercynon North station – Welsh Assembly Government request for ratification of closure**

- 1) I am writing further to your letter of 22 May 2008 requesting ratification of the proposal to close Abercynon North station.
- 2) Please find enclosed a notice ratifying the closure of Abercynon North station. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the power granted in s.32(9)(b) of the Railways Act 2005 (“the Act”), requires Arriva Trains Wales to display the ratification notice at the Abercynon North and Abercynon South stations for a period of 4 weeks following the date of the notice.
- 3) I will today send a copy of the closure ratification notice to the operator, and to all the parties consulted by the Welsh Assembly Government. A copy of the notice will also appear on the ORR website and will be placed on the ORR public register.
- 4) In deciding whether to ratify this proposed closure, ORR has checked that the Welsh Assembly Government has:
  - a) provided ORR with the appropriate documentation.
  - b) followed the consultation requirements laid down in the Act, and by the Railways Closure Guidance issued by the Secretary of State on 18 October 2006.
  - c) reasonably applied the criteria for appraising such proposals, as laid out in the Railways Closure Guidance.

d) concluded that the proposal represents good value for money, and that this conclusion is reasonable.

5) During the process of considering ratification, the proposal was posted on the ORR website for a period. We received no comments in response to this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small apostrophe at the end.

**Tim Bailey**  
Manager, Stations and Depots Team