**Wednesday 20th April**

**Virgin Trains celebrates its Welsh links in House of Commons**

Yesterday Virgin Trains joined over 20 organisations to celebrate the Isle of Anglesey in the House of Commons.

Anglesey Day, an annual event organised by Albert Owen, MP for Anglesey, brings together organisations from across the island to showcase what it has to offer. This year’s event focused on connectivity and was attended by representatives from business, education and transport.

Members of the Virgin Trains team from Holyhead spent the day speaking with politicians and representatives from businesses to highlight the work of Virgin Trains on the island and its services along the West Coast Mainline.

Gary Iddon, General Manager at Virgin Trains, said: “Anglesey Day is a great opportunity to champion everything the island has to offer and as one of the biggest employers on the island, we were pleased to be involved once again to help raise Anglesey’s profile and highlight our connection to the area. We care about the local communities we serve and this event is a great platform for engaging with them and understanding how we can work together to promote the island further.”

Albert Owen, MP for Anglesey, said: “Anglesey Day is a great way to highlight the island in Westminster and bring together business, the public and voluntary sectors. I would like to say a big thank you to Virgin Trains for providing an important link between Anglesey and London.”

ENDS

**About Virgin Trains**

Stagecoach and Virgin are working in partnership to operate the East Coast and West Coast inter-city routes under the Virgin Trains brand. Together, they are on track to revolutionise rail travel across the UK.

The combined network connects some of the nation’s most iconic destinations including Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, York and London.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. Customers consistently rate Virgin Trains as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Rail Passenger Survey (NRPS) commissioned by industry watchdog, Transport Focus.

On the East Coast route, £140m is being invested to create a more personalised travel experience. This includes a major fleet revamp, smarter stations and exciting new routes. From May 2016, there will be 42 additional services (22,000 extra seats) per week between Edinburgh and London. 2018 will see the introduction of completely new Azuma trains being built in the UK by Hitachi.

The West Coast route has a proud record of challenging the status quo - from introducing tilting Pendolino trains, to a pioneering automated delay repay scheme and becoming the first franchised rail operator to offer m-Tickets for all ticket types.

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