PRESS NOTICE 1 December 2022

**New rail services from Carmarthen to London Paddington**

Grand Union Trains (GUT) application for the right to operate a new intercity train service between Carmarthen and London Paddington, operating 5 return services every day has today been approved by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

Services are due to commence sometime in 2025 using new build bi-mode trains which can operate under electric or diesel power, as not all of the route is electrified.

Ian Yeowart, Grand Union’s Managing Director said: “*It is great news for passengers who may have the opportunity to use our services, and one only has to look at what happens now on the East Coast Main Line (ECML), where there are 3 competing operators, to see the significant benefits that arise when operators face some competition. We are acutely aware of the difficulties faced by the ORR in determining these applications, and previous ORR decisions have significantly benefited many users on the ECML. We expect to be able to bring those benefits to the Great Western Main Line*”.

He continued: “*The very significant support we have received from the Welsh Government and all areas of South and West Wales has been very important in promoting the value of the service and we are grateful for the cross party support we have had from members of the Senedd and Westminster and from a number of local authorities*”.

We look forward to continuing our work with partners and colleagues as we plan for the introduction of this new service.

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