



## **Arriva Trains Wales rolls its 'new look' Class 158 fleet into service for Easter**

Arriva Trains Wales passengers in Shropshire will see first-hand the result of a multi-million pound upgrade on Friday, 15 April, as Arriva Trains Wales officially puts into service its first fully refurbished Class 158 train at Aberystwyth Station on the 09.30am service to Birmingham International.

Mayor of Aberystwyth, Samantha Hearne and Mark Williams, MP for Ceredigion will join Mike Bagshaw, Commercial Director of Arriva Trains Wales, as the new train rolls into service in time for Easter and the start of the tourist season.

The train offers passengers greater comfort with new upholstery and extended leg room across approximately 134 seats; additional space for wheelchairs; improved cycle and luggage storage space and toilet facilities will be improved to include baby changing units.

A state of the art Passenger Information System has also been installed to keep passengers updated during service and electrical points made available on most table seats to accommodate items such as laptop and mobile power chargers. The exterior of the train has also been fully re-painted in a new livery.

A total of 24 trains within the Class 158 fleet, travelling across Wales and the English Borders, will be refurbished on the interior and exterior by summer 2012 and is part of a wider programme of fleet improvements.

Arriva Trains Wales Commercial Director, Mike Bagshaw, commented: "This program to our upgrade our fleet of trains will improve the journey experience for the ever growing number passengers using Arriva Trains Wales' services throughout Wales and the English borders.

"This refurbishment of the Class 158 train, is one of the most extensive the industry has seen to date, delivering an as new train interior designed around the needs of today's traveler."

Mayor of Aberystwyth, Samantha Hearne, commented: "We are pleased to support these major improvements by Arriva Trains Wales across its fleet. The service will benefit local residents who regularly travel on board the trains as part of the daily commute as well as students who will soon experience the improvements as they return to University after the Easter recess.

"With the service now extending as far as Birmingham International, it is more important than ever that our overseas visitors arrive into Aberystwyth Station on a service that is both comfortable and



accommodating of passengers' different needs. Tourism is a major economic driver for Aberystwyth and the wider West Wales area and these improvements will hopefully ensure that visitors continue to return to the area for many years to come.”

**Ends.**

**Notes to editors**

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For more information on Arriva Trains Wales visit [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk) or contact the press office on 07071 881278