

**Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM**  
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/DFM/0058/10

Ann Jones AM  
Chair – Equality of Opportunity Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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*Dear Ann*

At the Equality of Opportunity Committee on 9 February 2010, I promised that I would write to you with additional information about accessibility issues relating to bus, coach and train travel.

The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 set out the accessibility standards that new buses and coaches must meet. The Regulations apply to any public service vehicle with a capacity exceeding 22 passengers that is used to provide a local or scheduled service. All new buses and coaches must comply with these Regulations. Vehicles covered by the Regulations are referred to as "regulated public service vehicles". The requirements include:-

- a space for a wheelchair with suitable safety provisions;
- a boarding device to enable wheelchair users to get on and off vehicles;
- priority seats on buses for disabled passengers;
- the size and height of steps;
- handrails to assist disabled people;
- colour contrasting of handrails and steps to help partially sighted people;
- easy to use bell pushes throughout a bus;
- audible and visual signals to stop a bus or to request a boarding device; and,
- equipment to display the route and destination

While vehicles manufactured before 2000 are not required to meet these standards, the Regulations set out end dates by which all vehicles will need to be compliant. All small buses will need to be compliant by 1 January 2015, all large single deck buses by 1 January 2016, and all double deck buses by 1 January 2017.

Most of the bus operators in Wales are making good progress towards achieving fully accessible fleets and a number have already met the requirements in full.

I am also keen to take forward improvements to the TrawsCambria Network of long distance bus services. I have established a Management Board which has completed a thorough review of the network and is now looking at options to improve existing services as well as options to introduce additional, limited stop, coach services. These options are currently being appraised by the Board and will be presented to me shortly. I will make an announcement later this year.

In terms of access arrangements to the south side of Cardiff Central Station, the Assembly Government and Network Rail are taking forward a scheme for a new platform (Platform 8) and a new entrance. The scheme will be fully compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Finally, the evidence provided to the Committee about access to the south side of Cardiff Station has been conveyed to Arriva Trains Wales, and, as a next step, a review into the current arrangements is being undertaken.



**Ieuan Wyn Jones**

**Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for the Economy and Transport**