

# Darren Millar AM / AC

Shadow Minister for Health  
Gweinidog yr Wrthblaid dros Iechyd

Welsh Conservative Member for Clwyd West  
Aelod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig dros Orllewin Clwyd

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



REF: CAR/CE/LC

William Powell  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

18<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear William,

**Re: Free bus pass for students petition**

Further to the oral evidence session with students from Coleg Llandrillo at the Petitions Committee meeting in North Wales on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, please find enclosed further information relating to the survey and cost calculations referred to by the students.

It should be noted that these papers have been prepared by the students themselves and I have been asked to forward them to you on their behalf.

I trust that this will assist committee members in their consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Darren Millar AM**

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### Survey and Summary

-To support the petition for free bus passes for students under 25, and in full time education (P-04-361)

To collect a sum amount of students who agree with the petition we asked 29 students who vary in different courses to answer some questions relating to our petition here are our results -

Question one --

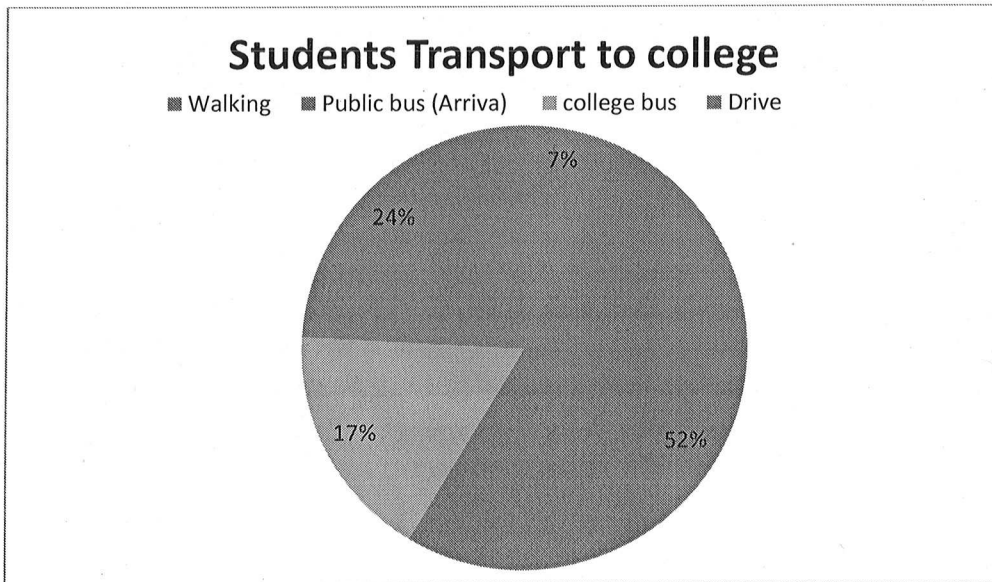
1) What Transport to you use to get to Llandrillo College?

Walking – 2 out of 29 students

Public bus (Arriva) – 15 out of 29 students

College bus – 5 out of 29 students

Drive – 7 out of 29 students



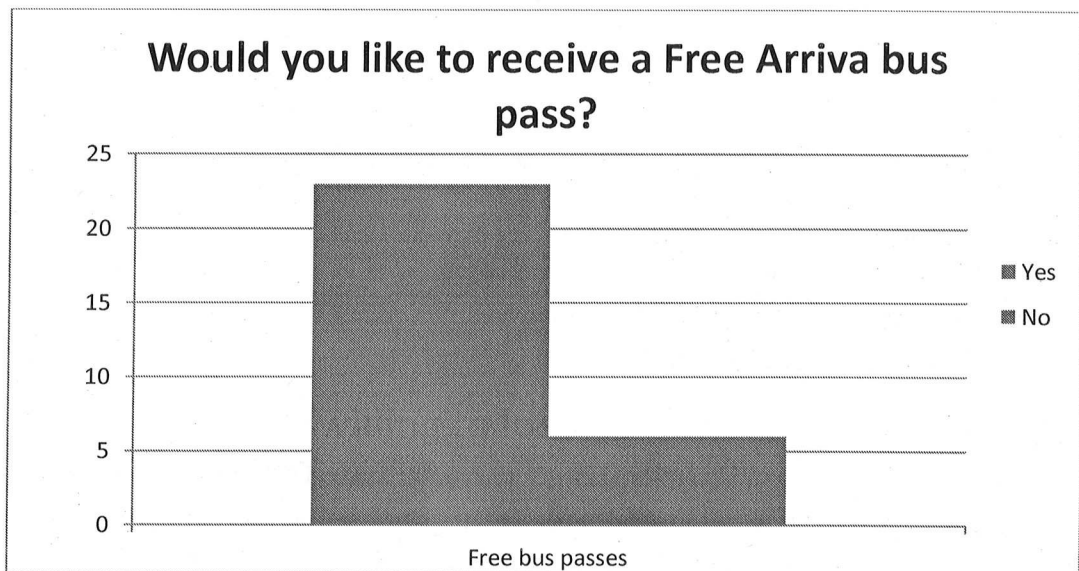
**National Assembly for Wales**

Questionnaire about free bus passes

Llandrillo Students

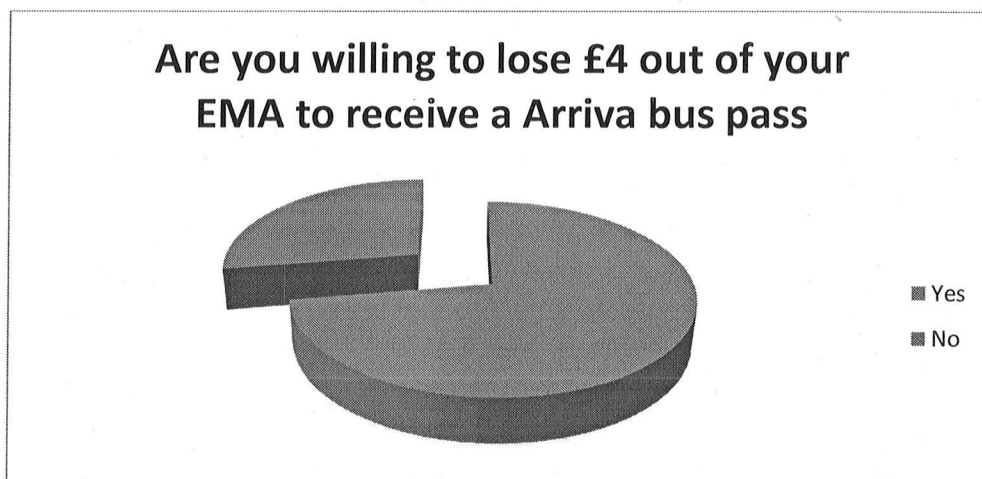
2) Would you use a Free Arriva Bus pas Monday – Friday from 6am to 7pm?

Yes - 23 out of 29 students      No - 6 out of 29 students



3) Would you be willing to lose £4 out of your EMA payment to receive an Arriva bus pass (considering that it costs £12 for a student weekly bus pass)

Yes - 21 out of 29 students      No – 8 out of 29 students

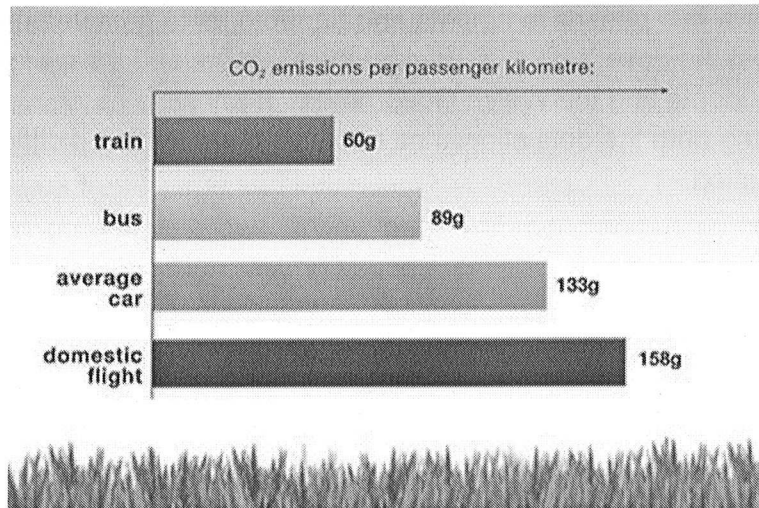


### Summary

The benefits of using the free Arriva bus passes are –

- It is a greener way to travel it emits less pollution than a car
- It is a safer way for students to Travel rather than 16-25 year olds driving on motorways
- It is a cheaper way of travel and its more efficient
- Many routes throughout Wales have dedicated bus lanes, so you can avoid sitting in traffic jams and being late for travel.
- No need to drive around trying to find a parking space as there is a limited space in college for parking spaces
- Also getting a road prevents other petitions from arising about students parking outside of the college outside people's houses

These are just a few benefits that have come to the top of my head im sure there is more when you look in depth into the problem.



[www.firstgroup.com](http://www.firstgroup.com)

## National Assembly for Wales

Questionnaire about free bus passes

Llandrillo Students

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The best thing about this petition is that it is not costing the Welsh Government a penny because the government is already dishing out money for the EMA so by deducting the £4 from the EMA from the students it's costing the students not you. This way by taking the £4 from the EMA the allowance is actually going on educational needs which EMA was meant to be for in the first place it's either being spent on alcohol, petrol or clothes not educational purposes.

Also you may argue that people who are receiving the EMA payment every week which the highest reward is £30 are technically using the £30 reward just to get back and from college every week how is this helping the student if they need the money for rent or educational purposes? The answer is it's not.

The EMA reward scheme is not fair on all students, because some students are not receiving the access to the rewards due to the households income of the family causing the student to not be able to come into college certain days, is it fair that the Government prevent students from education? The Welsh government should be encouraging students to education not putting barriers and brick walls in front of them. Our petition is not asking for a lot it's merely asking for the Welsh Government to provide free Arriva bus passes to help us and promote us to receive our education it's not going to cost the government, it will cost the students and it's a win-win situation for the students and the Welsh Government. It will save much more money that students signing onto the dole allowance because there finding it difficult to receive their education.

## Llandrillo College students

Finance sheet- How we propose to fund extending bus passes to students in full-time education.

14%- Students who are likely to use this *Arriva* bus pass (see our survey research document to see where this % has come from).

Our research suggest that students who currently walk or drive would do so regardless of if they were provided with an *Arriva* bus pass, therefore we have used the 14% average as a base for our calculations.

40 595= current number of students in 16-25 in Further Education Institutions

**14% of 40 595= 5 683**

£504= Average price of annual bus pass for students (£12 per week, 42 term time weeks in a year)

**5 683 x £504= £2 864 232 (cost needed to fund the scheme)**

Below are two options that would provide the funding needed by reducing the highest award of the EMA (£30 per week).

17, 180 - Students in Further Education Colleges who receive the £30 per week award.

### Option 1

Reducing £4 from the £30 EMA:

£4x 17 180= £68 720

**£68 720 x 42= £2 886 240 (cost generated from this reduction)**

### Option 2

Reducing £5 from the £30 EMA:

£5x 17 180= £85 900

**£85 900 x 42= £3 607 800 (cost generated from this reduction)**

**Both these totals would provide the income needed to fund the cost needed.**