



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/07292/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

03 September 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 29 July on behalf of Joe Powell regarding petition P-05-885 - Accessible and Inclusive Public Transport for Citizens with Learning Disabilities in Wales.

As set out in my previous letter, our guidance document to local authorities states that in developing their proposals for utilising their Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG) funding, local authorities should continue to involve as well as consult and work closely with stakeholders. This includes organisations representing persons with protected characteristics. Local authorities are public bodies and are therefore required to engage with local residents on any public service.

It is clear that local scheduled bus services are the foundation of our public transport system. On 16 July the First Minister confirmed in his legislative statement that we will introduce a Public Transport Bill in this Assembly term, building on the proposals in the 'Improving Public Transport' White Paper that was launched for consultation last year. A summary of responses to that consultation can be found here: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-08/improving-public-transport-summary-of-response.pdf>

The Bill will be a key part of wider reforms to bus services in Wales and will help us to achieve our ambition of creating an integrated public transport network, planned and provided in the public interest, and which meets the needs of the travelling public. The Bill proposals will provide the Welsh Government and local authorities with the tools needed to drive change. For further information on the Public Transport (Wales) Bill and wider bus reform agenda, please see a link to my written statement here:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-update-public-transport-wales-bill-and-wider-bus-reform-agenda>

Bus is a critical component of public transport and remains a key focus for both the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales (TfW). We have commissioned TfW to review how bus services could be delivered in future to ensure that urban and rural communities across

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Wales benefit from a modern, integrated public transport service. TfW is engaging with local communities, local authorities and bus operators to discuss how they participate in and benefit from an integrated regional transport system, and its work will be taken into account in taking forward the Bill and wider bus reform proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', written in a cursive style.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport