

28 February 2022

Dear Vaughan and Jane,

Following publication of the Committee's report A New Direction for HGV Drivers I was contacted by Displaced People in Action who informed me that many of the Afghan people who arrived in Wales in 2021, have experience of driving very large vehicles, which often comes from military service. Displaced People in Action have told me that many of those with experience would be keen to become HGV Drivers here in Wales. They also refer to the provision of free training to get HGV licenses which is being provided in England by the UK Government.

Recruiting arrivals from Afghanistan as HGV drivers seems as if it could help to alleviate the current drivers shortages we face. Please could you let me know the following:

- Has the Welsh Government considered promoting the **HGV driver apprenticeship programme** directly to refugees in Wales, including those who arrived from Afghanistan last year?
- The UK Government's website describes **HGV Skills Bootcamps** as "free training courses in England." Please can you clarify whether refugees in Wales can access these, and whether you would consider supporting them to access the training either via transport to an English course or by running a similar course in Wales?

I am copying this letter to Jenny Rathbone MS in her capacity as the Equality and Social Justice Committee and to Delyth Jewell MS in her capacity as Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.