

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00520/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

22 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language on behalf of the Emma Jane Granville regarding Petition P-06-1264 for school transport guaranteed for all comprehensive children. I am responding due to my portfolio responsibilities.

As you are aware, the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places duties on local authorities to assess the travel needs of all learners in their area up to the age of 19 and provide free transport for learners of statutory school age (5 to 16), to their nearest suitable school on the basis of age, distance, aptitude and safety. The local authority determines which is the nearest suitable school for each learner in their area in accordance with their school's admission policy.

An initial review of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 took place during 2020 – 2021, concluding at the end of the previous government term. It gathered evidence and views on potentially:

- reducing the distance thresholds for free school travel;
- free travel for post-16 learners, children of nursery age and learners attending their nearest Welsh medium school and faith school; and
- revising the guidance.

However, from discussions and engagement with stakeholders as part of the review, it became apparent that a wider review of the Measure was required due to the complex nature and implications of home to school transport. Officials are now considering how best to progress the further work required to more thoroughly review learner travel in Wales during this year.

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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.

As we undertake the further review, we will be seeking a wide range of views of the existing home to school transport arrangements and I will ensure Ms Granville's observations are fed into this important piece of work.

Ms Granville raises some very important points in the petition and I agree that the availability of transport should not be a barrier to education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', written over a light grey grid background.

Lee Waters AS/MS
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