

## **CYPE(6)-04-23 – Paper to note 9**

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair,  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

20 January 2023

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2022 in relation to the learner travel review. Much has changed since the Learner Travel Measure came into force in 2008. Home to school transport now accounts for a quarter of all local authority direct spending on education – this is a growing cost.

During 2020, we undertook a review of the existing Learner Travel Measure which involved gathering initial evidence. It found significant weaknesses in current networks and infrastructure that make implementing an expansion of provision difficult. We found there is inconsistency in provision across all of Wales.

Officials met with the Association of Directors of Education in Wales in the autumn where they heard the feedback from local authorities on some of the challenges they are facing in securing transport for learners. This dialogue continues and builds on the evidence we considered as part of the first review.

An official has recently been appointed to lead on the wider learner travel review. They are currently planning the wider review and I will be happy to share details of the timetable for that review when it becomes available.

Rather than tweaks, a long-term sustainable plan must be found.

The government has published a White Paper, One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket, which sets out an ambitious vision for transforming bus services in Wales. The proposed bill will offer us a chance to look a fresh at bus service delivery across Wales, including the provision of school transport.

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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 our aims are ambitious, these reforms will take time, but it is vital that we get this right to support learners and our wider reform programme. In the meantime, we will continue to work with Local Authorities to encourage a consistency in approach.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd

Deputy Minister for Climate Change