

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

22 August 2023

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 21 July to the Minister for Economy regarding provision of facilities for HGV drivers in Wales. I am responding due to my portfolio responsibilities.

As a commercial venture, Roadking made the decision that their business on Parc Cybi was no longer viable, which was disappointing. The subsequent sale of the site to HRMC has created great concerns around HGV lorry parking in Holyhead and the Welsh Government without prejudice have operated a temporary HGV parking area on the Plot 9 site at Parc Cybi, originally constructed as a contingency parking area to help manage issues related to the EU exit.

The Welsh Government has worked with Isle of Anglesey County Council, and we remain committed to working with local authorities in exploring options to try and address/resolve the issue for those in the area for HGV rest facilities. It is not a legal requirement for Welsh Government to provide such facilities (rest areas) for HGV drivers, but it is recognised that there needs to be improved facilities and provisions made to such a vital role and part of the Welsh economy.

The Welsh Government has also made a commitment as set out in Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy (WTS), to develop a new Freight & Logistics Plan for Wales. The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committees recommendations will be considered as part of that work.

Data gathering to understand the challenges faced by the industry will form a key part of the work and as outlined in our responses to the ETRA Committee we are looking to carry out an audit of rest facilities for drivers.

As you know, the Roads Review was published in February 2023. It recommended pushing ahead with the Freight and Logistics Plan but also recommended more active engagement with the freight transport industry, particularly in problem identification. The review stated

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales

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.

that greater attention should be given to concerns of the road haulage sector in relation to provision of suitable lay-bys, parking facilities and rest areas for HGV drivers.

The Welsh Government is acutely aware of the challenges faced by the industry and is actively engaged with the Road Haulage Association and Logistics UK. Both organisations and their members are keen to contribute to the Plan, which my officials will be progressing later this year.

We are currently supporting HGV drivers through our ReAct+ programme, which can provide individuals with a vocational training grant of up to £1500. The grant can be used to help with the acquisition of lorry licences and associated qualifications such as the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC). The grant can also be used to fund refresher training for lorry drivers who wish to re-enter the sector and provide a contribution towards wages to employers in the private sector who recruit an eligible worker.

Our Personal Learning Accounts (PLA) programme also provides free courses and qualifications to help employed people to upskill or reskill into priority sectors to improve their career and earnings prospects. Additional PLA funding of £10m million was allocated to address key skills and workforce shortages, more than £3 million of which was targeted at training over 850 HGV drivers. We are also working with Careers Wales to promote HGV driving as a career.

Driving Goods Vehicles Apprenticeships provide the road transport industry staff with knowledge and qualifications to support a career path in the industry by underpinning HGV training. For example, providing training on maintaining the integrity of load and vehicle by applying correct procedures for restraint, road, health and safety including shipping, removals, import/export, freight, hazardous goods, and food. Welsh haulier employers are also able to access the apprenticeship programme to train and upskill vehicle technicians to keep their fleet on the road – a need which the RHA has recently highlighted.

The most recent information we have suggests a shortfall of approximately 50,000 - 60,000 HGV drivers which has reduced from over 100,000 during the pandemic which demonstrates some of positive impact these schemes have had on driver shortages.

In the longer term, there is an opportunity to reverse the problems that have been building in the industry over many years and to create a more sustainable and resilient sector that offers fairer pay and working conditions for drivers.

Any future investment into the industry will be subject to funding availability from our annual budget settlement.

Yours sincerely



Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change