

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1372
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/02464/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
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01 November 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your correspondence of 02 October regarding 'Petition P-06-1372 Save our fflecsi bwcabus service'.

The Bwcabus service has been running now for over ten years, during this time we have either directly funded the scheme or facilitated grant funding - the latest of which was from the European Union. Unfortunately, the latest package of European Union funding has now come to an end as we have left the European Union. No replacement funding has been provided by the UK Government despite their promises that Wales would not be a penny worse off after Brexit. Welsh Government budget challenges also mean that we are unable to source alternative funding from departmental budgets for the scheme.

Bwcabus was one of the first demand responsive bus schemes to be introduced in Wales, and has provided us and the local authorities with a valuable insight into the operational challenges of running these types of services. We have since funded a number of fflecsi pilot schemes in other areas.

Transport for Wales have carried out a detailed evaluation of the Bwcabus scheme, which looked in detail at operational costs and passenger demand for the service. Unfortunately, despite the Bwcabus scheme been running now for a number of years, passenger demand for the service remains very low - typically only one passenger carried per hour per vehicle. This combined with the fact the service contracts for Bwcabus are due end imminently, the anticipated cost of replacing these on a 'like for like' basis also look prohibitively expensive

We have provided additional funding to Carmarthenshire County Council to enable to them to continue the service until the end of October.

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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.

Pembrokeshire County Council have since confirmed that they are going to fund the parts of the Bwcabus service which operate in Pembrokeshire from the end of October onwards on weekdays, but excluding Saturdays.

We are working with Councils, TfW and Community Transport providers to see how best to serve the communities affected by the closure of the Bwcabws scheme.

Yours sincerely,

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

Lee Waters AS/MS

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