



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/KSNWT/0389

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5 March 2025

Annwyl Elin,

The UK Government introduced their Bus Services (No 2) Bill (the Bill) to the House of Lords, on 17 December 2024. At the same time Wales has been working on the introduction of its own Bus Services (Wales) Bill in the Senedd in March 2025.

My officials have been working with UK Government officials to determine where there may be cross-over and where there may be divergence. The UK bill was introduced at pace with the intention of applying in England only. The initial competency analysis by the UK was that all elements were reserved and no Legislative Consent Memorandum was required.

Up to now I have only received Ministerial correspondence from Simon Lightwood MP, Minister for Local Transport about the Bill's introduction, there has been no other correspondence on specific details.

As the two bills cover many similar areas relating to bus operators, there are other areas of difference and focus, some of which may trigger an LCM. My officials have noted that some measures in the UK Bill do apply or have some effect in regard to Wales. I intend to have discussions with the UK Minister to determine the appropriateness of the effect. Whilst those conversations are ongoing, I will not bring forward an LCM in relation to the provisions which may be disapplied for Wales. I will of course confirm with the Senedd the outcome of those discussions and any amendments made, including through the legislative consent process where relevant. Notwithstanding these discussions, we do expect limited provision to remain in this Bill which will require the Senedd's consent, and I will be bringing forward

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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.

an LCM on that basis. This is expected to be incidental impact as a result of the nature of cross-border bus services and does not amount to substantive provision for Wales.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Climate Change and Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales