



**Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS**

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

**Right Honourable Elin Jones MS**

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Ken Skates MS

Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

Welsh Government

Cardiff Bay

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14 March 2025

Dear Ken,

### **Bus Services (No. 2) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 5 March in relation to the UK Government's Bus Services (No. 2) Bill ("the Bill") and the possible need for legislative consent.

I note that a legislative consent memorandum ("LCM") has now been laid in relation to the Bill. However, I am concerned that you have taken the decision not to include provisions in that LCM which may later be disapplied in relation to Wales.

You will be aware that Standing Order 29.2 requires a member of the government to lay a memorandum where any UK Government Bill makes relevant provision on its introduction to the first House. I recognise that you are currently in discussions with the UK Government about the appropriateness of the provisions that would apply and have effect in Wales. Despite this, under Standing Orders you are required to lay an LCM that specifies the extent to which the Bill makes (or would make) relevant provision, in order to allow the Senedd the opportunity to scrutinise those provisions. This includes provisions which may be disapplied in relation to Wales at a later time during the Bill's passage through the UK Parliament.

Standing Orders provide that an LCM must be laid before the Senedd normally no later than two weeks after a relevant Bill has been introduced to the UK Parliament. I note that 12 weeks passed between the Bill being introduced by the UK Government in the House of Lords on 17 December 2024, and an LCM being laid before the Senedd on 11 March 2025.

I am also concerned that an LCM relating to the Bill that does not include some relevant provisions may have an impact on the Senedd's ability to effectively scrutinise the Bus Services (Wales) Bill during its early stages. Standing Order 29.3 requires the memorandum to set out whether the government considers it appropriate for relevant provision to be made by means of the Bill, and this may provide important contextual information for the Senedd when it comes to consider the general principles of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill.

If, following discussions, the Bill is amended, you will need to lay a supplementary LCM in accordance with Standing Orders to allow appropriate scrutiny by the Senedd.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin Jones', written in a cursive style.

The Rt. Hon Elin Jones MS/AS  
Llywydd