



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1498  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/00210/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

25 February 2025

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 03 February, on behalf of Kathryn Lynch, regarding Petition P-06-1498 Introduce a bus service from Abergavenny Bus Station to The Grange Hospital, which you have provided prior to consideration by the Committee.

I am keen to work with Transport for Wales (TfW), local authorities and bus operators to improve bus service connections to key hospital sites and health care facilities. This financial year we have provided local authorities with £39m through the Bus Network Grant to enable them to maintain and improve bus services. As we take forward plans for bus franchising, TfW are working collaboratively with local authorities and CJs to develop bus network plans in all regions. We have asked them to examine the case for the provision of better links to hospitals and key health care facilities.

Major hospitals, such as the Grange Hospital, attract patients and staff from a wide catchment area. It is not always possible or feasible to provide direct bus links to the Grange Hospital from all communities. At present, Newport Bus operates the frequent commercial 29 service which links the hospital to Cwmbran rail and bus stations, as well as Newport city centre. There is no evident interest from bus companies to introduce other bus services on a commercial basis.

Monmouthshire County Council have advised that they recently went out to tender to procure a bus service between Abergavenny and Pontypool, which included an option for operators to extend journeys to the Grange Hospital. However, no operators submitted bids for the route extension to the hospital. At present, people living in the Abergavenny area need to travel to the Grange Hospital by catching either a bus or train to Cwmbran and connecting to Newport Bus service 29.

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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.

Last year we funded a trial bus service linking the Grange Hospital to Pontypool, Newbridge and Blackwood for a period of six months, but passenger use was modest, which demonstrated the challenges in establishing new direct bus links to The Grange on a sustainable basis.

South-East Wales regional bus managers have discussed opportunities to improve access to the Grange Hospital recently and will continue to look at different options to help improve public transport provision based on evidence of need and value for money.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the name.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

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