



Ein cyf/Our ref – KS/PO/287/2025

Mike Hedges MS Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 June 2025

Dear Mike

Bus Services (Wales) Bill

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence on the Bus Services (Wales) Bill to the Committee 12 May 2025. I am writing to provide you with the further information requested by the Committee.

1. I offered to provide further briefing on the differences between the definition of local bus services in the Bill compared to the definition in the 1985 Act.

Under the Bill a “local bus service” is a service with one or more stopping places in Wales; using one or more public service vehicles; for the carriage of passengers by road at separate fares, and for each embarkation point, the next disembarkation point must be less than 15 miles away (when measured in a straight line).

The definition in Section 1 is similar to the definition under section 2 of the Transport Act 1985 and aligns with the existing definition for all practical purposes. However, there are some key differences:

- Services must have one or more stopping places in Wales.
 - Given that the Bill seeks to establish a Welsh national bus network a definition capturing services operating in Wales was needed.
- Excursions or tours and rail replacement services are excluded from the definition.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@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.

- It is not the intention for these types of service to be secured by the Welsh Ministers therefore they are not local bus services for the purposes of the Bill.
- The word “bus” is included in the definition within the Bill as this word gives important information to the reader about the nature of the services the Bill is dealing with.
 - This does not appear within the definition in section 2 of the 1985 Act.

The definition in section 2 did not fulfil our brief as to what the Bill was to capture. Excursions or tours and rail replacement services have been excluded from the Bill’s definition of local bus services. It was also felt that the definition in the 1985 Act was overly complicated.

2. I also offered to provide you with an update on the publication of the full Justice Impact Assessment

The Justice System Impact Identification was published on 21 May 2025. We have been informed that the Clerk has shared this with you. It is also available here: www.gov.wales/bus-services-wales-bill.

We thank Committee for their patience in awaiting this document.

Once again, I want to thank the Committee for their time and if you have any further questions, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', is 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