



Llyr Gruffydd MS Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

02 July 2025

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee's report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Bus Services (No. 2) Bill ("the UK Bill").

Whilst the report did not contain any recommendations in relation to the LCM, the Committee has raised matters relating to the interconnection between the UK Bill and the Bus Services (Wales) Bill.

The Committee has asked for reassurance on the following:

i. that there are no provisions in the UK Government's Bill that conflict with the aims of the Welsh Government's Bus Bill.

I can confirm that there are no provisions in the UK Bill that conflict with the aims of the Welsh Government's Bus Bill. We have successfully negotiated with the Department for Transport for amendments to the UK Bill to ensure that the Welsh Ministers are consulted when appropriate in relation to cross-border services. We have also secured clarification in the UK Bill that the new tests for franchising authorities to issue service permits under clause 7 of the Bill will apply in relation to local bus services secured under the Wales Bus Network Plan.

ii. that discussions have been held with the Department for Transport on the interaction of the two Bills and, in particular, that the Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed analysis of the extent to which the provisions in the UK Bill will impact the Welsh Government's proposals.

Regular discussions have been held between Department for Transport and Welsh Government officials on the interaction between the two bills. Our Legal Services team has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the UK Bill, in particular the provisions that impact

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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.

Wales or are within Senedd's competence. This analysis has included the extent to which the provisions in the UK Bill will impact the Welsh Government's proposals.

We have been in discussion with Department for Transport about whether potential amendments should be made in relation to these provisions, their application in Wales and their potential impact on the future delivery of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill. We have now completed those substantive discussions. Amendments to the UK Bill have been laid in Parliament. I will lay a supplementary LCM on these shortly.

I am grateful for the Committee's time and consideration in relation to the UK Bill and its interconnection with our own Bill. The concurrent timetables for the Bills have complicated their scrutiny but has afforded us the opportunity to retain a focus on their impact, in particular on cross-border services, which should prove helpful in the long term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

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