

**From:** Morgan Stevens

**Sent:** 28 July 2025 12:23

**To:** Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee | Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith <[seneddclimate@senedd.wales](mailto:seneddclimate@senedd.wales)>

**Cc:** David Jenkins

**Subject:** Committee Report - Bus Services (Wales) Bill Stage 1

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Newport Transport in relation to the recently published report by the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee. We would like to raise a concern regarding a potential misinterpretation of part of our written evidence, which is referenced as **BSWB 32** within the report.

In our submission, specifically in response to Question 2, Part 1, we stated:

*"The Bill in this area is light on detail on how Welsh Government would seek to protect SMEs and the current municipal operators. Whilst it has been a stated aim for WG, the lack of information within the Bill is a cause of concern."*

However, on pages 90 and 91 of the report, under the section titled "Our View" regarding municipal operators, the following statement appears:

*"However, in evidence to the Committee, municipal operators appeared to believe they had been given assurances about their continued status and protections within the new regime."*

We are concerned that the phrase "appeared to believe" may unintentionally cast doubt on Newport Transport's understanding of the Welsh Government's position, and could imply either a misinterpretation or a lack of clarity on our part. We respectfully submit that this does not accurately reflect the nature of our evidence or the basis on which it was provided.

For reference, during the Committee session held on **27 November 2024**, Ken Skates MS was directly asked whether protections for current municipal operators would be in place. His response was an unequivocal "yes". A record of this exchange can be found at the following link, a screenshot of the specific points is also below:

[Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee 27/11/2024 - Welsh Parliament](#)



Joyce Watson  
10:48:54



238 Equally, there are municipal operators within a commercial market. Are you going to be able to offer any specific protections for those?



Ken Skates  
10:49:07



239 Yes. We are working with Cardiff and Newport councils regarding the need to protect the municipal companies that are in place at the moment. No decisions have been made about how we do that right now; it's probably the final piece of work that needs to be completed before we introduce the Bill in March. But we are at advanced stages of discussing this issue with local authorities.

In light of this, we would be grateful if the Committee could acknowledge this clarification and consider amending the report to more accurately reflect the evidence provided by Newport Transport. Specifically, we request that the wording be reviewed to avoid any unintended implication that our organisation assumed or speculated about the Welsh Government's intentions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We remain committed to supporting the Committee's work and welcome continued dialogue on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Morgan

Morgan Stevens

Operations Director



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