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**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes

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**National Assembly for Wales**  
Enterprise and Business Committee

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Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru	National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes	Enterprise and Business Committee
Gwasanaethau Bysiau a Thrafnidiaeth Gymunedol yng Nghymru	Bus and Community Transport Services in Wales
BCT 01	BCT 01
Helen Blair	Helen Blair

## Consultation questions

**Question 1** – how would you describe the current condition of the bus and community transport sectors in Wales?

Appalling. Insufficient frequency to be useful.

For example in the village of Rowen, Conwy County. The village used to have a near hourly service. The route has been severely cut, such that the children can no longer catch a service bus to or from secondary schools in either Llanrwst or Conwy. At times it is a “taxi-bus” connection to the B5106 to catch the service bus. This is impossible to explain to tourists using the village youth hostel. The infrequency of the service is having an adverse effect on people being able to access the village without the need for their own transport

**Question 2** – why do you think the number of bus services and the number of bus passengers is declining in Wales?

As above – a knock on consequence of infrequent services mean people use cars so that they do not have to wait hours for a return service from the local town.

**Question 3** – what do you think is the social, economic and environmental impact of recent changes in bus and community transport service levels?

People living in rural areas who are unable to drive/without their own vehicle become “excluded” through their inability to travel without the expense of hiring a taxi. This either “excludes” non-drivers from living in rural areas, or “excludes” them from accessing services in local towns.

Tourists who are relying on public transport become restricted in where they can visit.

Teenagers become reliant on parents to access activities after school/at weekends - effectively “excluding” them from events outside of their immediate locality. This may impact on families moving into rural areas.

**Question 4** – what do you think the Welsh Government should do to support bus and community transport in Wales?

It needs joined up thinking – regular bus services, reasonable fares, and passes/regular user discounts to encourage usage. Service buses should be used to allow easy travel to school/colleges.

**Question 5** – what do you think Welsh local authorities should do to support bus and community transport services?

See Question 4

**Question 6** – what do you think about proposals to devolve bus registration powers to Wales? How should these be used?

I'm not clear how devolving will encourage joined up thinking!

**Question 7** – please tell us whether you think further powers to regulate the bus industry in Wales are required and why?

Regulation needs to ensure regular and affordable transport is available for rural areas.

**Question 8** – what other action can be taken to ensure that bus and community transport services meet the needs of people in Wales?

Joined up thinking – with consultation to ensure the needs of people who use the services are met, not just the views of non-users followed.

Please tell us anything else you would like to mention this topic, thank you for contributing to our inquiry.

Smaller vehicles may help if numbers are falling, but if the service is not regular and reliable, then people will opt for private transport rather than using the bus.