

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00397/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

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14 February 2017

Dear *Mike,*

Thank you for your letter of 1 February regarding the petition from Rachel Griffiths about free school transport for all children in Wales. I am replying in view of my portfolio responsibilities.

Children receiving primary education at the categories of educational establishment set out in section 3 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 are entitled to free home to school transport if they live 2 miles or further from the nearest suitable school. Secondary learners are also entitled to free home to school transport if they meet the specific eligibility criteria: that they live 3 miles or further from the nearest suitable school or, that the walked route to school is unsafe (even if the learner lives below the statutory distance criteria between home and school).

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 sets out the legislative framework governing the provision of home to school transport in Wales. Local authorities are responsible for deciding which school is the nearest suitable school having considered a range of specific criteria, such as age, ability, aptitude, including any learning difficulties. Funding is provided to local authorities through the Revenue Support Grant however it is the responsibility of the local authority to decide how much funding is allocated to each service area, and therein to decide how much funding they allocate for transport services.

Yours ever,
Ken

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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.