

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-748
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00783/17
Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 February 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 24 February regarding a petition on school buses for children.

The provision of home to school transport is a matter for local authorities, and the provision of dedicated learner transport buses in this instance is a matter for the local authority to consider.

Under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 ('the 2008 Measure'), primary learners are entitled to free, dedicated home to school transport if they live 2 miles or further from the nearest suitable school while secondary learners are entitled to free transport if they live 3 miles or further from the nearest suitable school. Local authorities decide which school is the nearest suitable school by reference to a range of criteria, such as age, ability, aptitude, including any learning difficulties. Learners are also entitled to free transport if the walked route to school is assessed as unavailable (even if they live below the statutory distance limit from the school).

The Welsh Government believes that the safety of learners is of paramount importance. The Safety on Learner Transport (Wales) Measure 2011 set out that seat belts must be fitted to the seats of all buses used for dedicated learner transport (as of 1 October 2014). Welsh Ministers have issued Guidance on Home to School Transport Risk Assessments. The Welsh Government is also working to review the All Wales Travel Behaviour Code which sets out standards of behaviour which learners must adhere to on the home to school journey to keep them safe.

Public service buses are legally required to meet the national safety standards applicable to that vehicle if they are used on a public highway in the UK.

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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.

Yours ever,

Ken

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