

Ein Cyf /Our Ref:
Dyddiad /Date:
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:
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ST / P-05-748 School Buses for School Children
15th November 2017 [F]
02920 468600



David J Rowlands AC/AM
Chair of the Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear David J Rowlands AC/AM

P-05-748 School Buses for School Children - Petitions Committee

My apologies for the delay in responding to the Petitions Committee on the matter raised by Lynne Chick, School Buses for School Children. I have written to you separately on the matter.

Local authorities in Wales take the safety of all children and young people very seriously, including those who are travelling on home to school transport. Local authorities are governed by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the Safety on School Transport (Wales) Measure 2011 and the associated statutory guidance provided by Welsh Government. The implementation of these pieces of legislation has improved the safety on school transport, on both dedicated school buses and for children and young people who travel on public service routes. Key safety measures include the compulsory use of three point seat belts on dedicated routes, improved methods of assessing risk on transport and walking routes, and also the development of behaviour codes for children and young people using home to school transport.

Local authorities are constantly keeping arrangements for learner travel, including safety, under review and aim to provide an effective and efficient service. Current provision across Wales is mixed in terms of how learner travel is provided, this includes dedicated transport, use of public service routes, taxi service and in many cases ensuring that children and young people have a safe route to walk or cycle to school. The decision as to which service is appropriate for each learner is governed partly by legislation, in terms of the statutory distances for entitlement to free school transport, and partly by local circumstances.

In some cases it is appropriate for children and young people to travel on public service routes. Local authorities have a duty to provide services that are not only safe and appropriate but also that provide value for public money. It is the case that there are some circumstances in which it would not be practicable for a dedicated

Steve Thomas CBE
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**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

**We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.
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school transport service to be provided where a public service route is already in existence. Local authorities do have a responsibility however, to ensure that the service is safe and appropriate for the children and young people who are using that route.

The WLGA does not hold data on the provision of school transport across Wales, however, if the Committee requires any specific information then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will liaise with local authorities to obtain that information if possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Thomas'.

Steve Thomas CBE

Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive

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