

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ84921

Andrew R T Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central
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14 April 2022

Dear Andrew,

I write in response to WQ84921: What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of a congestion charge in Cardiff on businesses in the city?

Cardiff Council published a Transport White Paper (January 2020) which outlined its vision for transport in the city to 2030. It included a proposal for the introduction of a "road user charging scheme". Cardiff Council is exploring the introduction of demand management options including road user charging, including the impacts of a scheme.

Before a local charging scheme can proceed, it is necessary for detailed regulations to be made by the Welsh Ministers under the Transport Act. This would include an assessment of impacts and unintended consequences, including impact on businesses. In addition, Cardiff Council would need to undertake consultation, including with businesses, on the introduction of any Road User Charging scheme.

An Independent review of road user charging in Wales was undertaken by Derek Turner. This concluded that there was a need for a National Policy Framework for Road User Charging in Wales. Accordingly, The Wales Transport Strategy includes a commitment that the Welsh Government will provide a 'framework' for road user charging taking into account equality issues including needs of people in rural areas, people who share protected characteristics and people on low incomes.

The Welsh Government is investing heavily in active travel, transport metros and electric public transport. By investing in attractive and viable alternatives to car travel we will support a just transition to net zero as well as cleaner air, which will in turn create a more equal society, where access to work and services is not dictated by car ownership. Correspondingly we will see economic benefits from enabling more people to access work; gains in social equity and more successful town centres.

Yours sincerely,

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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.