



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Adroddiad Cwblhau

**Crynodeb o ystyriaeth y Pwyllgor Deisebau o P-03-184 Polisi
tocynnau rhatach ar lwybrau bysiau gwledig**

Ebrill 2009

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb

24 Hydref 2008

Dyfarnwyd yn dderbyniadwy

26 Tachwedd 2008

Ystyriaeth gychwynnol

4 Rhagfyr 2008

Ystyriodd y Pwyllgor y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf a chytunodd i ysgrifennu at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 ar gyfer y darn perthnasol o'r trawsgrifiad o'r cyfarfod ar 4 Rhagfyr 2008 ac Atodiad ar gyfer y llythyr a anfonwyd gan y Cadeirydd at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog)

Ystyriaeth bellach

27 Ionawr 2009

Trafododd y Pwyllgor ymateb gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a chytunodd y Pwyllgor y byddai'n gofyn i'r deisebydd ymateb i lythyr y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn ysgrifenedig.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 ar gyfer y darn perthnasol o'r trawsgrifiad o'r cyfarfod ar 27 Ionawr 2009 ac Atodiad 2 ar gyfer yr ymateb a gafwyd gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog)

31 Mawrth 2009

Trafododd y Pwyllgor ymateb gan y deisebydd a daeth â'i ystyriaeth o'r ddeiseb i ben gan nad oedd modd mynd â'r ddeiseb ymhellach.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 ar gyfer y darn perthnasol o'r trawsgrifiad o'r cyfarfod ar 31 Mawrth 2009)

Clerc y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Ebrill 2009

Atodiad 1

Trawsgrifiadau o gyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau

4 Rhagfyr 2008

Val Lloyd: We move on to the new petitions that we have before us, of which there are two. The first comes from a Mrs Anne Price of Tenby, who collected about 1,000 signatures. The wording is brief, so I will read it out.

'We the undersigned, hereby petition the Welsh Assembly Government, to urgently review the concessionary fare policy with regard to the funding of rural bus routes.'

Clearly, we are not the Welsh Assembly Government, but we have this petition before us as a committee of the Assembly. Would anyone like to begin?

Michael German: May we ask the Government about its attitude towards this? If I remember rightly, the big problem with the concessionary fare policy for rural bus routes is whether the Government can fund the sort of minibuses, small buses and routes that are run by voluntary organisations and other bodies, as opposed to statutory bus operators. That has always been a difficulty. Can we seek the Government's view on this?

Val Lloyd: I am content with that.

Andrew R.T. Davies: It is quite a comprehensive area to cover, with various bodies responsible for delivering support.

Val Lloyd: We have a good paper from the Members' research service. The more you read it, the more you realise that there is more to this than meets the eye. That would be a good way forward, initially. We will write to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, and await his reply.

27 Ionawr 2009

Val Lloyd: The next petition is P-03-184, on concessionary bus fares, which, if you recall, relates in particular to the provision of bus services from Pembrokeshire to Glangwili hospital. We have received a comprehensive reply from the Deputy First Minister. So, I open it up for discussion.

Andrew R.T. Davies: The petitioner raises some specific issues and the Minister has identified the streams of funding available in his response to us. However, I note that the Minister did not reply about the removal of the bus service operators grant. The Minister was to provide an alternative form of funding to make up the shortfall. However, in light of the Minister's response, it would be pertinent to go back to the lead petitioner to see whether he is satisfied. It is up to authorities to decide how they allocate that funding and if it is about how that money is allocated, then that is a separate issue. However, perhaps it would be pertinent at this point to go back to the lead petitioner in the light of the Deputy First Minister's response and see whether he is happy or content with gaining a clearer picture of the level of funding available.

Val Lloyd: Does anyone wish to add to that? I see that you do not. We will therefore take that course of action

31 Mawrth 2009

Val Lloyd: Okay. Thank you. The next petition is P-03-184, on concessionary bus fares. I do not think that there is much else that we can do with this petition because it is a local authority issue.

Andrew R.T. Davies: It is clearly a local authority bus route and we tend not to delve into local authority issues because they are not really within our remit.

Val Lloyd: Basically, we cannot take this petition any further.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I propose that we close it.

Val Lloyd: Thank you. The proposal is accepted.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Is there a way, Chair, regarding the Rhymney bus routes—and there was another petition about Carmarthenshire bus routes—that when the petitions arrive, it is pointed out to the petitioners that as, in essence, it is a local authority issue, the remit of the Petitions Committee means that it is unable to deal with it?

Val Lloyd: The wording in the Rhymney valley bus service petition was that the petitioners 'call upon the Welsh Assembly', in relation to the reintroduction of the bus service, local transport, the local transport grants, and so on. We then have a duty to look at it. If it is a council decision, we will find that out later on. However, I do not think that we can just say that it is a council decision; we have to look at it first.

Atodiad 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Deputy First Minister and
Minister for Economy and Transport
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-184

4 December 2008

Dear Ieuan

PETITION: CONCESSIONARY FARES POLICY ON RURAL BUS ROUTES

At its meeting on 4 December, the Petitions Committee initially considered a new petition on *Concessionary Fares Policy on Rural Bus Routes* from Mrs Anne Price from Tenby, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Welsh Assembly Government to urgently review the concessionary fare policy with regard to the funding of rural bus routes."

The petitioners (around 1,000) are opposed to the imminent closure of the 333 bus route between Pembroke Dock and Carmarthen which is predominantly used by concessionary fares pass holders in order to access Glangwili Hospital, dental services and shops.

The Committee agreed to write to you to request the view of the Welsh Assembly Government on this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-184
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/02340/08

Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA



13 January 2009

Dec. Val

Thank you for your letter of 4 December in response to a petition submitted to the Petitions Committee about the reduction to two days a week of Silcox's bus service from Pembroke Dock to Carmarthen. Naturally, I regret any decision by a bus operator that results in a reduced service.

There are two mechanisms whereby local authorities are able to subsidise local bus services. They may use funding from their own budgets or that provided by me through the Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG). The latter helps local authorities to boost the number and range of subsidised bus and community transport services. In the current financial year, the Assembly Government is providing a total of approximately £10.86m to local authorities under LTSG, including £530,467 to Pembrokeshire and £906,929 to Carmarthenshire. It is for each authority to decide how to allocate this funding, reflecting its assessment of local circumstances and priorities.

As you know, Silcox asked Pembrokeshire County Council to help fund the service, but it was not one of that authority's priorities for public funding. Silcox also approached Carmarthenshire County Council, but that too was unsuccessful. Clearly, in this case, the relevant local authorities feel that there are other, more deserving local services.

I understand that there are a number of other ways to travel between the two places by bus. The best alternative would appear to be First Cymru's service 349 from Pembroke Dock to Haverfordwest, then Silcox's service 322 to Carmarthen.

I hope that this is helpful.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

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