

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ88907

Rhys ab Owen MS  
MS for South Wales Central

26 September 2023

Dear Rhys

Thank you for your written question WQ88907 regarding the impact of bus service cuts in Cardiff on those with mobility issues. I promised to write to you with a more substantive response.

Changing travel patterns post Covid and rising operating costs continue to pose significant operating challenges for bus operators across Wales. We have tried to mitigate this through the provision of significant additional revenue support to bus operators and local authorities, including our latest Bus Transition Fund, providing £46m in revenue funding to help secure key local bus services across Wales until the end of March 2024. However, some operators have decided to start to change services to reflect changing passenger demand and operating environment.

There is no requirement on bus companies to undertake a wider social / community assessment when making service changes. However, local authorities, in this case Cardiff City Council, have a statutory power to assess the impact these commercial decisions have on the local bus network and provide alternative tendered bus services where they consider there to be a wider social need. I was encouraged that Cardiff City Council has used its powers to provide alternative contracted services on key routes, to maintain key links across the city severed because of the decision of bus companies.

We do intend to press ahead with proposals to introduce a new Bus Bill in the Senedd in 2024 which will lay out a new approach to the planning and delivery of local bus networks, including a move towards a more integrated franchised network which puts the needs of the passenger at the heart of the decision-making process. We are working with Transport for Wales on detailed proposals for franchising and will consider the issue of mobility assessments as part of this work.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales)

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.

In the meantime, I have asked Transport for Wales to continue to work closely with local authorities to identify a revised network of sustainable bus routes as we transition from the current deregulated network to the new franchised network of services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd