



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ87380

Andrew R.T. Davies
Member for South Wales Central

andrewrt.davies@senedd.wales

6 March 2023

Dear Andrew,

On the 07 February 2023 you asked a written Senedd question on how much funding has been allocated to address public transport in rural areas in the draft budget for 2023/24.

Our budgets are set up to look holistically at the public transport needs of all communities across Wales including those in rural areas. Wales's rural communities make up around a third of our population and are spread across all parts of the country. Providing access to sustainable, safe and reliable public transport is vital not only to achieving our climate change goals but to help people access the services, employment, cultural and education opportunities to enable them to thrive.

Our Rural Pathway takes a hub-and-spoke approach. It will help those in the most isolated communities better access their local village or town. From there they will have a wider range of public transport and active travel choices to travel locally or to connect them to their nearest transport interchange for longer journeys.

The development and delivery of our rural pathway is already underway. We will be submitting a proposal shortly to the UK Government's Union Connectivity Fund to develop plans to increase capacity along the Cambrian and Heart of Wales rail lines, and in doing so increase cross-border connectivity.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru
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.

Funding will be made available for the delivery of the rural pathway in our budgets in 2023/2024 alongside the more urban aspects of our Metro programmes. This work will form a key part of the development of Regional Transport Plans, a duty which lies with Corporate Joint Committees to produce for each region of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change