

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref WQ87322

Andrew R.T. Davies
Member for South Wales Central

andrewrt.davies@senedd.wales

10 March 2023

Dear Andrew

Thank you for written question of 01/02/2023 in which you asked “What is Welsh Government doing to eradicate transport poverty in Wales.”

Welsh Government already fund the MyTravelPass scheme which offers young bus users a third off their tickets. Our Programme for Government commitment also sets out how we will build on the success of that scheme. Detailed work is underway to consider a range of options to deliver a system of more equitable bus fares across Wales.

We are currently examining a range of options to introduce a new ‘Fairer Fares’ policy to make bus travel more affordable and bus use more attractive to all in the community. This includes and builds on our Programme for Government Commitment to enhance discounted travel opportunities for younger people. There is a lot of interest in low fares initiatives from public bodies across the UK.

We recognise the impact the cost of living crisis is having. Rail fares normally increase in line with inflation, however this year in light of the current economic climate we have taken a different approach. Instead of fares increasing by 12.3% in 2023, the increase has now been capped at 5.9%. This does not mean that every fare will increase by that amount, and Transport for Wales are continuing to provide a range of lower cost advance fares and free tickets for children when they travel outside of peak hours with a fare paying adult.

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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.

We understand that any increase in fares is unwelcome for passengers, but we have made every effort to ensure the increase is as low as possible. Unfortunately given the disappointing budget settlement from the UK Government we cannot afford to deliver a lower increase or a wholesale freeze of rail fares in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered on a light grey rectangular background.

Lee Waters AS/MS

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