

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

—
**Climate Change, Environment,
and Infrastructure Committee**

Senedd Cymru

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Rhian Bowen-Davies,
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

2 May 2025

Dear Rhian,

Scrutiny of Bus Services (Wales) Bill: concerns regarding consultation period

Thank you for letter, dated 23 April, expressing concerns regarding the consultation period for the Bus Services (Wales) Bill (the Bill). The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 30 April.

We recognise that the subject matter of the Bill may be of particular interest to older people, and we are keen to provide all interested parties with sufficient opportunity to engage with the scrutiny process. As you acknowledge in your letter, the Committee has to manage its scrutiny of the Bill within the confines of the timetable set by the Business Committee. The Committee has been given 11 sitting weeks within which to consider and report to the Senedd, which is in line with standard practice. This necessitates a shorter consultation period than would be the case, for example, for a policy inquiry where the Committee has autonomy over timetabling matters.

We acknowledge that the six week consultation period is likely to present challenges for those wishing to submit evidence. However, we are keen to ensure that this evidence is available in good time to test with witnesses, including the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, during oral evidence sessions in the coming weeks.

While the Committee is able to request an extension to the scrutiny timetable, doing so would have implications for its scrutiny of the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill.

The Committee has reflected the concerns you raise in your letter in its evidence to the Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes. A copy of the evidence is attached for information.

In relation to providing non-digital options for individuals to submit evidence, the Clerking team is always happy to work with individuals to ensure they are able to submit evidence in the format of their choosing.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.