



Ein cyf/Our ref: KS/PO/384/2025

Buffy Williams MS
Chair Children, Young People and Education Committee

SeneddChildren@senedd.wales

05 August 2025

Dear Buffy,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July providing an update on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's inquiry into routes into post-16 education and training. I really appreciate the early sight of the summary of evidence received by the Committee, outlining the transport challenges facing young people wishing to continue their education beyond the age of 16.

Please be assured that, alongside the Minister for Further and Higher Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Education, I am committed to reducing the barriers for our young people to be able to access post-16 education provision.

I recognise that access to reliable and affordable transport can have a transformative impact, not only on educational attainment but also on the broader social, economic and wellbeing outcomes for young people. Ensuring that access to and affordability of transport does not act as a deterrent to participation in post-16 learning aligns with our shared commitment to fostering social mobility and inclusive growth. I anticipate the pilot £1 fare scheme for young people across Wales will contribute to reducing some of these costs. As the Committee are aware, we expect the Bus Bill to provide us with the opportunity to review levels of service to places of learning, whilst retaining Local Authorities' power and responsibility to assess the learner travel needs in their area and arranging transport for eligible learners.

Following the Learner Travel Summit I hosted in May this year, we are developing a workstreams focussing on post-16 transport provision. I will ensure that the Committee's final report and recommendations are considered by the workstream.

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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.

Thank you again for your proactive work to highlight these challenges and for your constructive approach. I look forward to receiving the final report and our continued collaboration to ensure that all young people in Wales can access the education and opportunities they deserve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales