



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1533
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/01601/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

22 October 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 29 September regarding Petition P-06-1533 Review and update Provisions 2-10 of The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 received by Rebecca Smart.

I am fully aware of the strength of feeling that learner travel generates which is clearly demonstrated by this petition.

I note that the petition is calling for the Welsh Government to review and update the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure. In 2023 the Welsh Government undertook an internal review of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure which culminated in the publication of a [Recommendations Report](#) in March 2024. This report set out a pathway for this Senedd term in a realistic, affordable and pragmatic framework.

One of the key recommendations was to review and revise the guidance that supports learner travel. This work has been ongoing and a [consultation on the revised operational guidance](#) document was opened in June this year. I recently announced the extension to the closing date for this consultation exercise (to 28 November) so as many people and organisations can inform and influence the future policy direction.

In addition to this, in March this year I requested time for a government debate to discuss this complex issue and in May I held a summit bringing together representative bodies to discuss the challenges and practical solutions for improving learner travel in Wales. The summit report outlines the workstreams that have been established to take forward some of this work and I have committed to holding a follow up event early in 2026. I have attached a copy of the summit report for your information. The Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government responded to a short debate on this subject matter in the Senedd on 8 October outlining the Government's position and action in this area.

I want to reassure the Committee that I am listening and see this is a priority area for increasing partnership working between all delivery partners including our local authorities who are responsible for delivering learner transport provision to eligible learners.

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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.

I would be grateful if you and Committee members could use this opportunity to raise the profile of the consultation that is open until 28 November. I am keen for us to use this exercise to really help inform the development of the guidance and policy thinking in this area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ken Skates AS/MS

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