
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes

National Assembly for Wales
Enterprise and Business Committee

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Gwasanaethau Bysiau a Thrafnidiaeth Gymunedol yng Nghymru	Bus and Community Transport Services in Wales
BCT 25	BCT 25
Joy Elsen	Joy Elsen

Consultation questions

Question 1 – how would you describe the current condition of the bus and community transport sectors in Wales?

Please accept my apologies when I say that I cannot make comment on most of the questions that you have asked due to my lack of knowledge on this very complex and important subject.

However, I would be most grateful if you would take the time to read my answer on Question 8 and the comments following it.

Thank you.

Question 2 – why do you think the number of bus services and the number of bus passengers is declining in Wales?

Question 3 – what do you think is the social, economic and environmental impact of recent changes in bus and community transport service levels?

Question 4 – what do you think the Welsh Government should do to support bus and community transport in Wales?

Question 5 – what do you think Welsh local authorities should do to support bus and community transport services?

Question 6 – what do you think about proposals to devolve bus registration powers to Wales? How should these be used?

Question 7 – please tell us whether you think further powers to regulate the bus industry in Wales are required and why?

Question 8 – what other action can be taken to ensure that bus and community transport services meet the needs of people in Wales?

Local borough councils could send out a questionnaire to constituents for opinions and improvements that could be made to local services.

A committee could be set up in order to analyse any comments in order to liaise with bus companies regarding the needs of bus services within the borough.

Please see my comments below.

Please tell us anything else you would like to mention this topic, thank you for contributing to our inquiry.

I have campaigned for the past 4 years with local councillors my AM and Stagecoach regarding the No 33 bus service to Cardiff. The service travels from Pontypool and through Griffithstown every half an hour from 0905 until 13.05 then every hour until 17.45. There is a return journey working on similar times. The population of Griffithstown is 5,450 the Population of New Inn is 5,986. I am 76 years of age and live in New Inn near Pontypool and, like me, there are many people who would welcome the opportunity of having a direct bus service to Cardiff. In particular elderly people who need to attend or visit hospitals in Cardiff. There is no reason why this service could not be fairly distributed between Griffithstown and New Inn thereby allowing the residents of New Inn to be treated equally. Many people feel that we are being discriminated against. We do

have a train station with a service to Cardiff but in my case it is one and a half miles away and on the Pontypool edge of the village – a long walk for most and not easily accessible. The other issue is that if, like me, people have bus passes we are able to take advantage of free travel – the train fare is £8.70 return. I trust that you will give my comments your careful consideration. Thank you.

I forgot to mention that the access to the platform at Pontypool and New Inn rail station is totally inaccessible to the elderly and disabled there being two long flights of steps up to the platform. It is possible to get a bus to Cardiff from New Inn but it involves changing buses at Cwmbran Bus Station which is quite a dangerous traffic area. It means crossing two roads amongst a lot of bus traffic. Vulnerable people are unable to make this journey which is why a direct bus service to Cardiff is so important.

However, I must emphasise that the rail station is a valuable asset to our working community who travel daily on what is one of Arriva's main lines. It is also used by students travelling to Hereford, people from New Inn and surrounding areas are able to drive and park or be dropped off at the station. Able bodied people too make good use of the facility.