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Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth

Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

William Graham AM  
Chair of Enterprise & Business Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales

07 December 2015

Dear William

I am writing to you following the Enterprise and Business Committee's session last Thursday when we discussed bus and community transport in Wales. I very much look forward to the committee's recommendations based on the evidence that the committee, under your chairmanship, has gathered during this inquiry.

During the discussion at committee, I said that I had received proposals from my Bus Policy Advisory Group to introduce a national Welsh Bus Quality Standards for use in Wales. These proposals have been developed by representatives drawn from local authorities, bus operators, passenger and disability groups and are based on the quality standard introduced in south east Wales earlier this year. The group has recommended that payment of Bus Service Support Grant to operators is based on this voluntary standard, to be implemented from April 2016.

I have asked my officials to undertake a consultation exercise with stakeholders to ensure that these standards are relevant and proportionate for the improvement of local bus services in Wales. I consider these standards, which I have attached for your information, a tangible example of working in partnership and would very much welcome the views of the committee on these proposals.

The Bus Policy Advisory Group has also overseen the preparation of guidance by the TAS Partnership. The guidance is intended to provide

advice to bus operators and funding authorities about interventions that can improve the quality of bus services in an area. The interventions highlighted in this report illustrate the improvements that can be achieved when bus operators, public authorities, passenger groups and trip generators work in collaboration for mutual benefit and to meet the needs of passengers.

I have asked my officials to publish the reports that I have attached for your information and circulate them to operators and local authorities in Wales. I trust that the committee will find these reports helpful in their deliberations about how we can work to improve access to quality local bus services and community transport during the next term of the National Assembly for Wales.

I will write to you shortly on the other areas which the committee has raised.

*Edwina Hart*

Please see the following link to the Welsh Government's Consultation on Voluntary Welsh Bus Quality Standard:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/transport/160107-bus-quality-standard/?skip=1&lang=en>

The reports to which the Minister for Economy, Science and transport refers are available at the bottom of the page in the following link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/transport/public/bus-policy/?lang=en>