



Ein cyf/Our ref: KS/PO/588/2025

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

17 November 2025

Dear Mike

Bus Services (Wales) Bill – WCPP Report

I am pleased to inform you that the Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) report “*Success Factors for Contracting and Awarding Bus Franchising in Wales*” has been published, and is available at the following link, along with accompanying documents:

[Innovative approach to evidence to support Wales’ bus franchising transition | WCPP](#)

The report, which has been co-produced with WCPP, my officials and Transport for Wales, has welcomed input from various experts and franchising authorities from across the world, all of which have successfully implemented and sustained models similar to that enabled by the Bill.

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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.

The report brings together the findings from four expert authored think pieces alongside insight from eight evidence 'spotlight sessions' held between March and May 2025, featuring transport authorities from Jersey, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Australia, and Singapore, and two UK cases (Liverpool City Region, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority), plus leading academic experts.

This project has been invaluable in informing some of the policy development behind the Bill and continues to inform and steer plans for implementation, such as contract development and the development of some of the regulations and guidance.

I hope that you, and the rest of the Committee, enjoy reading the report.

I want to extend my thanks once again to the Committee for their work and scrutiny of the Bill. Your examination and challenge is vital to shaping legislation that truly serves public interest.

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