

Ken Skates AM
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

24 February 2020

General Ministerial Scrutiny on Transport and Employability Support

Dear Ken,

Thank you for attending the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee meeting on Wednesday 12 February 2020 as part of our scrutiny on Transport and Employability Support

During the meeting you agreed to provide the following information in response to issues raised by the Committee:

Governance and future development of Metro schemes in north Wales, south west Wales and south east Wales

- Is there a strategic plan for each of these Metro programmes and if so where is it published? How can the public access details of projects, and understand the funding and governance as well as the rationale for these Metro plans at a programme rather than individual project level?;



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The implications of Brexit for the Welsh transport network

- The Welsh Government's position on UK Government plans for Free Ports. What are the risks and opportunities for Wales? Has the Welsh Government been able to engage with the Secretary of State and the Freeports Advisory Panel? If not, what are the barriers? Details of the piece of work undertaken by one of the enterprise zone boards in Wales specifically regarding free ports.

The work of the Unadopted Roads Taskforce

- What specific changes in approach are being implemented through the Good Practice Guidance and Common Standards for housebuilders and local authorities? How will these be enforced and monitored? The First Minister has said the Good Practice Guidance is currently being trialled by local authorities. Has this been published?

Additionally, due to time constraints there were a number of issues which Members were unable to raise with you during the meeting. The Committee would be grateful if you could also provide a response to these in writing:

- Can you clarify the scope of the Task and Finish Group on 20mph limits. The First Minister has referred to both 20mph speed limits and 20mph zones. Are both being considered? What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of each approach particularly in terms of cost and effectiveness?
- Can you give us more detail on the current strength of the evidence for the impact of 20mph speed limits and zones in terms of accident rates, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions? For example, in November 2018 the UK Government published research suggesting there is "insufficient evidence" that 20mph limits lead to significant changes in collisions and casualties in residential areas when compared to 30mph comparator areas.
- How will the recommendations of the 20mph Task and Finish Group be implemented, funded and evaluated?
- The Project Initiation Document for the pavement parking Task and Finish Group says the Group's remit "assumes that it is the intention to have a

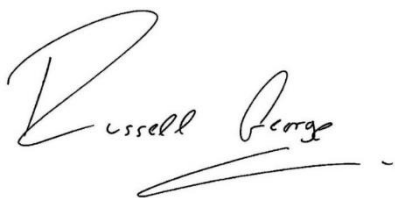


national ban on pavement parking throughout Wales.” Can you outline the legal and policy options available for taking this forward?

- The Deputy Minister has acknowledged the need “to find a solution [to pavement parking] that works” and “that doesn’t alienate people”. Recognising that the Group has yet to report, how do you believe that the interests of motorists and pedestrians can be balanced given constraints on road space and limitations on availability of both parking and public transport alternatives?

The committee welcomed the candour in the response from yourself and your officials to the questions on Employability Support.. The Committee is still concerned about what has happened and the extent to which lessons have been learnt. However I feel at this point it is most appropriate we refer the matter on to the Public Accounts Committee; and so I will be writing to the Chair of PAC to draw attention to the evidence you provided to us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Russell George

Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

