

Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00217/17

Mat Taylor  
Chairperson  
Marshfield Community Council

matht4@gmail.com

31 January 2017

Dear Mat

Thank you for your email of 20 January highlighting your concerns about public transport provision for Marshfield village and the report you provided.

I was disappointed to hear that Newport Council has made proposals to end subsidies for the X16 bus service which currently serves Marshfield village.

Firstly I would like to confirm that the Welsh Government has not reduced the reimbursement that operators of local bus services receive in return for carrying older or disabled persons for free. It is the responsibility of each local authority to determine the reimbursement to which each operator of local bus services is entitled, and invoices the Welsh Government for the contribution that the Welsh Government makes to those costs.

We continue to provide local authorities with funds sufficient to meet their obligations to reimburse bus companies, consistent with the authorities' obligation to ensure that bus operators are "no better and no worse off" as a result. This currently amounts to some £60m per annum, to which the local authorities collectively contribute a further £10m. We also provide local authorities with some £2.3m per annum to meet the authorities' costs in administering the scheme.

In terms of the provision of local bus services, the majority of these are provided by bus operators in response to their assessments of local circumstances, and profitability. Local authorities have powers to subsidise services which are not being provided by bus operators.

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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.

We have also allocated to local authorities in 2016-17 £25m under the Bus Services Support Grant scheme to help them subsidise services that operators would otherwise not provide however it is the responsibility of each local authority to determine which services to support, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

In the circumstances, you may wish to ask Bus Users Cymru, which I fund to represent the interests of bus passengers, to take up your concerns with bus operators and Newport Council. The appropriate contact is Barclay Davies, who may be reached on 029 2034 4300.

I would also recommend you contact the Community Transport Association in Wales to see if it might be able to suggest an alternative community transport solution. The appropriate contact is Carl Gough, who may be reached on 01792 844290.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', written in a cursive style.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

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