



Ein cyf/Our ref : LW/18/19

David Rees AM

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Dear Dai,

During Business Questions on 17 September, there was a commitment made by the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd for me to write to you regarding learner travel for post 16 year olds.

The Learner Transport (Wales) Measure 2008 sets out the duties on Local Authorities (LAs) with respect for transport for learners. The LAs have to assess the travel needs of all learners in the authority up to the age of 19. They have a duty to provide free transport to learners of statutory school age (5 – 16) on the basis of age, distance, aptitude and safety as follows;

- For primary school pupils living more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school as determined by the LA.
- For secondary school pupils living more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school as determined by the LA.

The LA decides on the nearest suitable school in accordance with their admissions policy.

Parents have a right to express a preference for a specific school and this may include Welsh or English medium education or faith based schools, but if the school is not the nearest suitable school the LA does not have to provide free transport.

A few issues have recently been raised about discretionary transport provision for learners over compulsory school age. However, I have asked my officials to look at the issues you raised during Business Questions.

Yours sincerely

Lee Waters AC/AM
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

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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.