Ken Skates AC/AM Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth Minister for Economy and Transport



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06561/19

Llywodraeth Cymru

Welsh Government

Janet Finch-Saunders AM Chair - Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

21 June 2019

Dear Sonet,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May regarding Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children.

Recommendation 8 of the Children's Commissioner for Wales's 2015/16 Annual Report stated that "the Welsh Government should review the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and associated statutory provision and operational guidance, to ensure that all journeys to and from school are safe and that local authorities are quite clear about their responsibilities for ensuring that this happens."

The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation in principle and has been consistent in its commitment to ensuring the safety of learners on their home to school journey as well as promoting their well-being through a healthy active lifestyle. The operational guidance supporting the Learner Travel Measure was reviewed and published in 2014 and since that time some minor amendments have been made to the guidance and the Travel Behaviour Code has been refreshed.

The Guidance is currently being reviewed following a commitment by the Minister for Education during scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. This review is being undertaken in conjunction with local authority staff and the revised document will be the subject of a public consultation in due course.

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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.

Whilst the Guidance is being reviewed there is no intention to review the Learner Travel Measure. Transport and Education officials are considering responses to the consultation on the draft Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code and issues arising. The Minister for Education has stated her intention to publish the ALN Code in December 2019, subject to the approval of the Code by the National Assembly.

Your ever,

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth Minister for Economy and Transport