



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1031  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05856/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

16 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 28 September regarding Petition P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas.

The maintenance of Wales' Strategic Road Network to minimise risks to safety and resilience is a legislative requirement that the Welsh Ministers have a duty to meet. The Welsh Government has listened to criticism regarding delays on the network caused by roadworks and has acted over recent years to address those concerns. The preferred option where possible, as long as it is safe to do so, is to undertake works with lane closures, primarily overnight when traffic flows are reduced.

However, some schemes cannot be undertaken safely under lane closures and here there is a stark choice. Contraflows, which close one carriageway, cannot be achieved on overnight works as they take approximately 2 days to install. A contraflow would have to be in place 24/7 whilst the works were undertaken. The other option is to completely close the carriageway overnight and divert traffic onto a pre-agreed diversion route. The diversion route needs to be agreed with the relevant highway authority, and this option has been adopted over recent years with much-reduced disruption to road users.

Finally, through the development of the Wales Transport Strategy we will be working closely with the freight and logistics sector to explore new and innovative ways of moving goods throughout Wales, including opportunities to mitigate the harmful effects of HGVs in respect of noise and air pollution whilst ensuring we maintain the viability of the competitive and commercial freight services which fundamentally support our economy.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales