



Eich cyf/Your ref MA-L/KS/0336/19

Llyr Gruffydd  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

29 April 2019

*Dear Llyr,*

### **Improving Public Transport White Paper – Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment**

I attended the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee on 13 March 2019 to give evidence as part of the Committee's inquiry on 'The Future Development of Transport for Wales'. During that session my officials and I responded to questions from Members regarding the publication of a draft Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) relating to the White Paper 'Improving Public Transport'. I am writing to you to share with you the same information, given your committee's remit and interest in the financial elements of legislation.

The White Paper, published on 10 December 2018, sets out that a draft RIA seeking to identify the costs, benefits and impacts of the proposed legislative changes would be published in January 2019. However, during the development of the RIA it became clear that consultation on the RIA during this period would not be as meaningful as expected. As such the draft RIA was not issued for consultation alongside the White Paper.

The proposals set out in the White Paper provide a range of legislative tools to empower local authorities to work collaboratively with each other and with bus operators to respond flexibly to local community needs. The cost implications of the legislation could vary considerably depending on which of the options local authorities decide to use to address the circumstances and challenges within their communities. It is therefore difficult at this stage to provide a meaningful assessment of the impact of all of the potential combinations in which these tools could possibly be used.

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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.

The Welsh Government recognises that effective stakeholder engagement is essential in order to develop robust RIAs. However, it is my view that such engagement should be based on clear information to allow stakeholders to provide considered responses. I will therefore be publishing a draft RIA in the summer, once my officials have analysed the White Paper responses

I trust the Committee will find this information of use.

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

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy and Transport