



14 June 2023

Dear Leaders and Chief Executives,

Bus services tie our communities together, they are a lifeline for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our communities - providing access to education, health, and leisure. We must protect them.

The Bus Transition Fund – developed collaboratively by Local Authorities, Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and the industry – provides immediate financial support to bus operators in Wales so that those vital services can continue.

Your officers have been working incredibly hard, on a regional basis, to rapidly plan and cost a network of bus services which can be delivered when our bus emergency scheme ends on 24 July.

We believe that the funding available will protect the majority of services across Wales and we have asked the Regional Planning Teams and TfW to prepare an overview of changes to services. Although some services may change to reflect post-pandemic travel patterns, there will be little or no impact in some areas.

All regions have now confirmed they are prepared to move forward, building on the work undertaken to date and the initial regional financial allocations proposed. This work must be done at pace if we are to avoid mass-cancellations of bus services.

As bus operators are required to give 28 days' notice to deregister a service, without confirmation of regional plans, services **will begin to be deregistered from 26 June 2023**. Building on the real progress made in recent weeks, we now need you to ensure that revised plans relating to your area have been considered and agreed by your council **before 26 June 2023** - including using delegated decision making powers if required.

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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.

Of course, the work does not stop there and we must continue to work collaboratively to develop a longer term sustainable funding model that bridges the gap to franchising.

Your assistance in ensuring continuity of services is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Morgan', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Cllr. Andrew Morgan OBE
Arweinydd CLILC
Leader, WLGA