

**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes
Enterprise and Business Committee**

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

5 March 2013

Dear William

Petition P-04-144 submitted by Guide Dogs for the Blind

Thank you for your letter dated 27 February requesting that the Enterprise and Business Committee consider the issues raised by the petition as part of our scrutiny of the Active Travel (Wales) Bill.

The Committee's remit is to consider and report on the general principles of the Bill and I attach for your information the Committee's agreed framework for scrutiny and its consultation questions. In taking evidence on the Bill we will, of course, be focusing on the specific issues outlined in the attached. However, if there is any cross over with the issues raised by the petition, I will seek to ensure that these are explored.

You may be interested to hear that the Committee will be taking oral evidence from Guide Dogs for the Blind later this month in connection with the Bill. This will provide Members with an opportunity to discuss any matters of relevance to Guide Dogs for the Blind's petition that are also pertinent to our work on the Bill.

Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Clerc Deddfwriaeth / Legislation Clerk: Liz Wilkinson
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I will let you know if we do reach any conclusions or make any relevant recommendations in our report, which may be of interest to the petitioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee

Committee's framework for scrutiny

To consider:

- i) whether there is a need for a Bill to deliver the aim of enabling more people to walk and cycle and generally travel by non-motorised transport;
- ii) the key provisions set out in the Bill and whether they are appropriate to deliver the stated aim;
- iii) potential barriers to the implementation of the key provisions and whether the Bill takes account of them;
- iv) the financial implications of the Bill;
- iv) the level of detail provided on the face of the Bill compared to that which will be contained in future guidance.

Consultation questions

1. Is there a need for a Bill aimed at enabling more people to walk and cycle and generally travel by non-motorised transport? Please explain your answer.

2. What are your views on the key provisions in the Bill, namely –

- the requirement on local authorities to prepare and publish maps identifying current and potential future routes for the use of pedestrians and cyclists (known as “existing routes maps” and “integrated network maps”) (sections 3 to 5);
- the requirement on local authorities to have regard to integrated network maps in the local transport planning process (section 6);
- the requirement on local authorities to continuously improve routes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists (section 7);
- the requirement on highway authorities to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists when creating and improving new roads (section 8)

3. Have the provisions of the Bill taken account of any response you made to the Welsh Government's consultation on its White Paper? Please explain your answer.

4. To what extent are the key provisions the most appropriate way of delivering the aim of the Bill?

5. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the key provisions and does the Bill take account of them?

6. What are your views on the financial implications of the Bill (this could be for your organisation, or more generally)? In answering this question you may wish to consider Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum (the Impact Assessment), which estimates the costs and benefits of implementation of the Bill.

7. To what extent has the correct balance been achieved between the level of detail provided on the face of the Bill and that which will be contained in guidance given by the Welsh Ministers?

8. Are there any other comments you wish to make on the Bill that have not been covered in your response?