

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-377
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05757/12

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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8/5 March 2012

Thank you for your letter of 12 March enclosing a Petition from Betsan Caldwell about the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative.

The Capital Symonds' 2009 evaluation report made a number of recommendations about improving the operational aspects of the Initiative. It did not recommend rolling out the Initiative to community transport schemes across Wales. However, the Report identified that the costs of rolling out the Initiative to another 50 different community transport schemes would cost around £40m per annum at 2008-09 prices. This is unaffordable in the face of very tight funding constraints we face.

The evaluation of this six year CTCFI pilot scheme has evidenced significant issues with our continuing to fund the entirety of the scheme on the present basis.

However, I am aware that each of these schemes is a distinct, individual project and I believe it important that we now examine the projects independently to look at the benefits each scheme provides and whether there are alternative funding sources available. Different avenues of funding are available for some of the schemes, particularly those that are suited to being registered as demand responsive services under Section 22 permits, which means they would be eligible for funding from the All-Wales Concessionary Fare Scheme.

Therefore, I have decided that the funding of the projects will not end in March but will continue whilst this further evaluation takes place. I have written to each of the 15 schemes informing them of this decision.

My officials are in touch with the participating schemes to take this work forward. This will be done over the next few months. I will make a further announcement when I have considered the evidence from this evaluation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

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