



**Cymdeithas
Cludiant
Cymunedol**
**Community
Transport
Association**

*Trosglwyddo newid
cymdeithasol
drwy addysg a menter*

Ystafell 10
Canolfan Forge Fach
Heol Hebron
Clydach
Abertawe
SA6 5EJ
t 08707 743 593
f 01792 845 877

Huw Thomas
Integrated Transport Unit
Transport Planning and Administration Division
Transport Wales
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF CF10 3NQ

7 February 2008

Dear Huw,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on proposals for a Public Transport Users' Committee for Wales. I attach a completed section 8 table as requested, as well as some additional comments from CTA Cymru below.

Section 2.5.4

We are unclear which plans have been put forward to the Welsh Assembly Government by the Welsh Consumer Council to improve Community Transport, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these.

Section 4.1.2

We would like to see "including community transport" included in line 4 after the words "on all aspects of public transport".

Section 4.1.3

CTA is not sure that the interests of passengers using community transport is protected by the organisations listed earlier. If they are, then this should be made clear in previous text.

Section 4.1.4

This implies that the PTUC will work with individual CT providers. However, since community transport encompasses so many different kinds of schemes e.g. Wheels to Work, Community Cars, Minibus hire, Dial a Ride, Demand Responsive Transport etc, it would be difficult for any one provider to represent the views of the entire sector. CTA Cymru as a membership organisation with regional CT forums would be well placed to act as a facilitator for this dialogue.

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Room 10
Forge Fach Centre
Hebron Road
Clydach
Swansea
SA6 5EJ
t 08707 743 593
f 01792 845 877
wales@ctauk.org
www.ctauk.org

Letter to Huw Thomas, dated 7 February 2008 (cont.)

This section does not explain fully why the PTUC will work closely with the voluntary and community transport sector, since the sector does not feature in the suggested list of functions in section 4.2.3. Perhaps this could be elaborated and cross-referenced between both sections.

Section 4.3

Although CTA can see some merit in adopting a regional approach, we feel that the four small RSC's proposed might well find it difficult to cover all transport modes and could lead to duplication of effort. It might be better to concentrate on the Users' Committee and ensure that it meets regularly in locations across Wales, inviting local and regional user groups to each venue.

Section 4.4.2

Accessibility should also make reference to those living in rural areas as well as peripheral urban areas where public transport may be infrequent and/or at unsuitable times of the day for social or economic needs.

Section 5.3

CTA Cymru supports the proposals put forward under Option 2.

Q8 of table – Childcare costs:

Although we agree that this should be the case, we also suggest that support should be given for the costs for other forms of care as well, since this might involve someone having to pay a carer to sit with a disabled or elderly relative to attend meetings.

I hope you find these comments of use, and look forward to hearing of progress with this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Betsan Caldwell
Director for Wales
CTA Cymru

SECTION 8

QUESTIONS

8.1 The Welsh Assembly Government invites responses to the following statements (please place a tick or cross in one box only):

1 Do you agree that a single body (a PTUC) should lead in representing the interests of public transport passengers in Wales?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

2 Do you agree that the PTUC (W) should be supported by four Regional Sub-Committees (each with three Members) plus local focus groups?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
			X	

3 i) Do you agree that the Committee and its four Regional Sub-Committees should mainstream accessibility and mobility issues throughout their work?

Or

ii) Do you agree that there should be a separate Accessibility Sub-Committee?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
i	i X	i	i	i
ii	ii	ii	ii X	ii

- 4 Do you agree that the work and activities of Bus Users UK and Passenger Focus should be transferred to the PTUC providing a simple structure for passenger interests?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
			X	

- 5 Do you agree that the PTUC should be an umbrella organisation and that the functions and responsibilities of Bus Users UK, Passenger Focus and the Welsh Consumer Council should be retained as now?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

- 6 Do you agree that the Member competencies and Chairperson specification are sufficient for the roles required of them?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

- 7 Do you agree that the Chairperson should be reimbursed at a daily rate for his/her work and that Members should also be remunerated for their time and expertise?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

- 8 Do you agree that childcare costs should be reimbursed?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

9 Do you agree that the Committee should also oversee cycling and walking when these form part of public transport journeys?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

10 Do you agree that the main office of the PTUC (W) should be located outside Cardiff in a regional office of the Welsh Assembly Government?

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
	X			

RESPONSES (except for signature, please print in capitals)

Completed by	BETSAN CALDWELL
Position	DIRECTOR FOR WALES
Organisation	Community Transport Association (CTA) Cymru
Date	5 FEBRUARY 2008
Signature	

8.2 Responses will be considered valid only if the above table has been completed including the respondent's details. The completed table will need to be returned by no later than close **Tuesday 5 February 2008**. Please send responses in hard copy to:

Huw Thomas
 Integrated Transport Unit
 Transport Planning and Administration Division
 Transport Wales
 Welsh Assembly Government
 Cathays Park
 CARDIFF CF10 3NQ

E-mailed responses (with or without a signature) can be sent to:
 E: Huw.Thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk

8.3 You are welcome to also provide more general comments and observations, but as a separate return **in addition to and not as part of** your tabular responses to specific statements.