



Janet Finch-Saunders AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy

Assembly Member for Aberconwy



Mr Geraint Edwards,
Head of Environment, Roads and Facilities,
Conwy County Borough Council
Via email.

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders AM,
29 Madoc Street,
Llandudno,
LL30 2TL.
01492 871 198

5th February 2019

Ref: LT/JF0397

Private and Confidential

Re: School Bus Transport

National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.

0300 200 7454

janet.finch-saunders@assembly.wales

Dear Geraint,

It is with great alarm I write to you with regard to recent amendments to school bus provision which I understand have been instigated, particularly pertaining to the Deganwy and Llandudno Junction area.

I have been most concerned to discover the establishment of a community page set up on the social media website, Facebook, to address this issue with over 50 parents joining the group since its foundation yesterday afternoon.

The reports both on this site and as received from concerned constituents are deeply concerning: multiple accounts are made of children being denied access to the school bus service from Ysgol Aberconwy on account of allegedly insufficient seating provision. As such, I understand that provision of weekly bus passes has been limited and that students are encouraged to buy annual passes.

Nonetheless, from constituent feedback I have understood that no measures to increase seating supply have been made, ensuring that demand for school transport remains high. As such, I have received advice of numerous instances of children possessing a requisite weekly or annual pass being denied transport.

Elsewhere, I am also advised that children boarding services have required to sit two to a sit or on each other's knees which, if correct, would constitute a clear breach of condition 6.k.i. of The Public Service Vehicles Regulations (1990) Act.

(cont.)

Mi wnaiff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid iddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddelfio 'efo'r awdurdodau perthinasol er mwyn eich helpu a'ch cynorthwyo chi. Efallai mi fydd angen i rywun ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o bwys. Gadwch wybod i ni os nad oes diddordeb gennych mewn cael eich cysylltu at y diben hwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders will treat in confidence any personal information which you may pass on to her, and she will normally allow her staff to see it, so that they can consult with relevant authorities in order to help and advise you. We may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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(cont.)

Finally, reports of a reduction of service stoppages have been made: I understand that the Llandudno Junction Post Office stop has been terminated. As such, I am concerned both by reports of safety concerns elicited by a large number of school children necessarily present at the Llandudno Junction Station stop, and also for the ability of children with additional support requirements to safely journey to and from school if these allegations are correct.

Reports of children been denied access to school transport services, and its limiting effect on their education if true, are deeply concerning to me, and I am writing to outline my immense disquiet that my constituents have felt it necessary, perceiving little assistance from their local authority, to take their own action in setting up this group.

As such, I would be most grateful for you to kindly confirm whether reports of a reduction of weekly bus pass supply are correct, stating what measures you are investigating to increase school bus places to Ysgol Aberconwy. I would also be most grateful if you would kind supply a copy of the local authority's School Transport Policy for the benefit of my information.

I look forward to receiving your reply so that I might update my constituents accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

Cc'ed to D Ifans, Interim Head of Education, CCBC