



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-716  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06439/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

20 September 2016

*Dear Mike*

The Franchise was let in 2003 by the strategic rail authority to Arriva Trains Wales (ATW). There was no requirement to provide free rail travel to school pupils, but ATW took the commercial decision to make this available. The decision to remove this offering is a commercial matter for the company.

However, the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places a requirement on local authorities to provide free transport to learners of compulsory school age (5-16) who live more than two miles from their nearest suitable primary school or more than three miles from their nearest suitable secondary school.

I appreciate the concerns expressed by the petition organiser concerning safety on the station platform and will pass these on to the train operator.

If the Committee's decision is to consider this petition, I would look forward to providing evidence to the committee.

*Yours ever,*

*Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

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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.