

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00452/23

Jane Dodds MS  
MS for Mid and West Wales  
[Jane.Dodds@Senedd.Wales](mailto:Jane.Dodds@Senedd.Wales)

21 March 2023

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your email of 09 March regarding free public transport for asylum seekers and refugees.

The actions taken by the UK Government have left us with a series of difficult decisions to make as we balance the budget for the next financial year. Against this backdrop, the Welcome Ticket, which provides refugees with free bus travel, has been extended for a further three months and will be reviewed within this period to determine future funding support.

Focusing on a longer-term solution, over the last few months my officials have been working closely with Transport for Wales (TfW) to examine the costs and benefits of extending the Welcome Ticket, including consideration of the inclusion of asylum seekers as an eligible cohort. We are also discussing the introduction of a range of fares and ticketing options designed to make bus travel easier and more accessible for all in the community.

The Welsh Government and TfW will continue to work closely with the bus industry to deliver public transport services within available funds and reduce any impact on bus passengers from any reduction in funding.

Yours sincerely,

**Lee Waters AS/MS**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales)

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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.