



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-737  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/07569/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

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

Dear Mike,

10 January 2017

Thank you for your letter of 7 December regarding the petition received from Patricia Threadgill following Stagecoach's changes to its Gilfach Goch to Pontypridd bus service.

I fully appreciate the importance of bus services in Wales and I am disappointed with the decision by Stagecoach to reduce the frequency of its service 150 between Porth and Gilfach Goch, and to discontinue the half-hourly extension to Pontypridd.

Unless in receipt of a subsidy from the local authority, decisions about service changes are made at the commercial discretion of bus operators. In this case it would be a matter for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to consider whether it wishes to publicly fund the retention of the Pontypridd extension and the former 15 minute frequency.

We are providing £25m to local authorities in 2016-17 under the Bus Services Support Grant to help subsidise socially-necessary bus and community transport services. Each authority is responsible for determining which services it supports utilising its grant allocation.

In the circumstances, the correspondent may wish to ask Bus Users Cymru, which the Welsh Government funds to represent the interests of bus passengers, to take up their concerns with Stagecoach in South Wales. The appropriate contact, who would be more than happy to assist, is Barclay Davies, who can be reached on 029 2034 4300, or [Barclay.Davies@BusUsers.Org](mailto:Barclay.Davies@BusUsers.Org).

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.