



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

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**Title:** Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

**Date:** 1 April 2009

**By:** Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

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Members will wish to note the significant progress made on the implementation of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure since it was passed by the National Assembly for Wales in September and received Royal Approval in December 2008.

The Measure expands access to free school transport for primary school children, improves safety and provides clarity over the provision of free school transport in Wales. It also helps local authorities in making and managing learner travel arrangements in their areas.

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2009 brought the general planning provisions of the Measure into force on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The duties to provide learner travel will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

Following consultation exercises, the Changing School Session Times (Wales) Regulations 2009 and the Learner Travel Information (Wales) Regulations 2009 were made on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, and both will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The Changing School Session Times Regulations set out the procedures local authorities must follow to change the start and finish times of school session times. The Learner Travel Information Regulations set out the information local authorities must publish about home to school travel arrangements.

The consultation period for the Operational Guidance to accompany the Measure closed at the end of February 2009 and, having made the necessary amendments, it is being published today, the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

The Measure also places a duty on Welsh Ministers to produce an All-Wales Travel Behaviour Code, setting out the standards of behaviour required of all learners when travelling to and from their place of learning. Officials are currently developing the Code and guidance, before a consultation period begins in April 2009. I propose to publish the Code in October, to become effective for all learners from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.