



Dr John Marek AM

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

Richard Edwards AM
Chair of EPT Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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20.8.01

Dear Richard,

Policy Review of Public Transport

I would like to make some points in reply to your Consultation Report.

1. I agree with recommendation 6 and in my view, it is important that the National Assembly for Wales is involved. There is a problem that if local government were simply to be given money to provide transport it would not necessarily be used in the best possible way. NAW involvement would provide a check on this.
2. I agree with the concept of an all Wales approach and importantly establishing a Passenger Transport Authority for Wales. However, the possibility of a PTE for North East Wales should also be considered. Clearly, a PTE within NorthEast Wales only would not be appropriate but I suggest that the possibility of a NorthEast Wales/Chester/ Wirral PTE be examined.
3. There should be genuine public consultation before changes in public transport patterns are undertaken. A recent example is where Central Trains changed their pattern of services between Shrewsbury and Chester and in doing so cut all provision on a service from Cardiff to Wrexham. Central Trains said they consulted authorities but local authorities had their own agenda and did not consult the public. There should be no secrecy in developing improved public transport patterns and I suggest that you give this matter your consideration when drawing up the final document.

Yours sincerely

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