

P Derrett Esq
House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee

Our ref: T/12/1

8 June 2004

Dear Mr Derrett

Draft Transport (Wales) Bill

Further to our telephone conversations I understand that you would like a short letter from the LGA about the draft Transport (Wales) Bill and the prospect of giving oral evidence to the Select Committee on 24 June.

The letter which you sent to the LGA did not reach me but the WLGA kindly forwarded a copy of the similar letter which you sent to Cardiff.

I have during the course of the week managed to download the Bill and speak to elected members and colleagues at the West Midlands LGA. As I anticipated in May there does not appear to be any content in the bill on which the LGA, representing its English membership as a whole, could add any substantive comments to those which are being submitted by the WLGA on behalf of the Welsh authorities, which I am sure will be both comprehensive and focused. On that basis it is unlikely that the LGA will be drawing up any substantive views on the bill's contents and thus either submit written evidence to the inquiry or respond on the wider draft bill consultation.

If you are looking for comments from the LGA specifically about the provisions relating to cross border rail services, then they would appear to be *de minimis* in comparison with some other cross local authority boundary rail issues, although the West Midlands Region LGA may have local views to offer. I can supply the name of a transport policy contact at the WMLGA on request.

The proposed joint authority provisions in the draft bill do not appear to be similar to PTA arrangements in England, and the LGA is in any event not in a position easily to advance the *pros and cons* of its own members' structures.

Given our understanding that Select Committee's always like oral witnesses to give substantive comments in response to their questions, the inclusion of an LGA witness at the hearings on 24 June probably would not add any useful insights to the Select Committee's overall understanding of this bill's implications. In the light of the above comments I hope that you will agree.

Yours sincerely

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