

# Y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal

## Equality of Opportunity Committee

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

9 August 2010

Dear Colleague

The National Assembly for Wales' Equality of Opportunity Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the **impact of Welsh Government policy on the accessibility of transport services for disabled people in Wales**. The terms of reference for the review are as follows:

The Committee aims to scrutinise the impact of Welsh Government policy and actions in relation to the accessibility of transport for disabled people in Wales. In order to do this the inquiry will consider the following:

- **Issues of particular concern to disabled people** who use, or want to use, transport services;
- The **adequacy of the National Transport Plan** and its **associated Equality Action Plan** as a means of improving the accessibility of transport in Wales;
- The impact of **Welsh Government guidance on Regional Transport Plans** as a means to improve accessibility of transport in Wales;
- In areas that are the responsibility of the Welsh Government:
  - Policies which aim to **improve the accessibility of bus and coach services**, such as concessionary fare policy and community transport;
  - Accessibility issues facing pedestrians, **such as the use of shared spaces**;
  - The accessibility of **taxis and private hire vehicles services**
- The impact of Welsh Government policy on the **integration of transport services** in relation to the needs and concerns of disabled people

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

Y Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal / Equality of Opportunity Committee  
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Transport policy and its impact on disabled people is a broad and complex subject that includes areas of policy devolved to the Assembly and to Welsh Ministers as well as those reserved to the UK Parliament and Government. For example the accessibility of public transport vehicles is **not devolved** to the Welsh Government.

The Committee wants to focus its inquiry on the actions taken by the Welsh Government. In order to do this effectively, Committee Members wish to develop an understanding of the key issues that affect the accessibility of transport services from the perspective of disabled people and the organisations responsible for the commissioning, provision and management of transport services in Wales. The Committee would be grateful if you could respond to the points below **which apply to you**.

### **A. Questions for disabled people**

The Committee is interested in the views and experiences of people with physical or sensory impairments and people with a learning disability.

**NB:** If you are an organisation that commissions, provides or manages transport services we would be grateful if you could ask disabled members of your staff to respond to the following questions. Disabled members of staff are welcome to send their responses directly to the Committee Clerk if they wish.

1. Please summarise your experiences as a disabled traveller.

- How easy do you find it to travel locally and nationally?
- What are the biggest barriers you have experienced in making journeys in Wales?
- What factors have made it easier to travel? For example, what difference have concessionary travel cards and community transport services made to you?
- Have you had any particular problems or good experiences relating to a particular mode of transport, e.g. buses, coaches, trains, taxis?
- How well integrated are transport services in your area? (For example, are there good links between bus and train services and are you able to park at or near your local bus stop or railway station if you need to)
- What experiences have you had as a disabled pedestrian? The Committee is particularly interested in 'shared spaces' where pedestrians, cyclists and motorists use the same surfaces.
- How do your experiences in Wales compare with your experience of travelling in other countries?

2. To what extent are you aware of the powers devolved to Welsh Ministers and the Assembly that could have an impact on the accessibility of transport services in Wales?

## **B. Questions for commissioners, providers and managers of transport services**

- What actions has your organisation taken to make transport services accessible to disabled people? Please highlight any initiatives that you consider to be examples of good practice.
- What actions has your organisation taken to publicise your services to disabled people?
- How has your organisation worked with others to ensure that transport services are well integrated?
- What are the biggest challenges for your organisation in this area? For example, are there any actions that you could take to improve the accessibility of transport services but cannot for some reason?
- What changes in policy or law could help your organisation to make a greater contribution to making transport services more accessible to disabled people?
- What impact has the Welsh Government's National Transport Plan had on the accessibility of the transport services you are involved with?
- What impact has the guidance issued by the Welsh Government on the development of Regional Transport Plans had on the accessibility of the transport services you are involved with?

Submissions do not need to address all the above areas and the Committee welcomes evidence from both individuals and organisations. If you know of a person or organisation who might be interested in the Committee's inquiry, please pass this letter on to them.

We will be holding oral evidence sessions in the Autumn Term 2010 so it would be helpful if you could indicate in your submission whether you would be prepared to give oral evidence, if invited.

Generally, we ask for submissions to be made in writing because it is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee on our internet site so that it becomes part of the public record. However, we are also able to accept evidence in audio or video format. Submissions should be sent to the Clerk at [equality.comm@wales.gov.uk](mailto:equality.comm@wales.gov.uk), or the address above, to arrive no later than **Friday 8 October 2010**.

### **Disclosure of Information**

As previously stated, it is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Ann Jones AC / AM**  
**Cadeirydd / Chair**