

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05893/12

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
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21st April 2012

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March following the petition from Sharon McNamara about bus services to east Lampeter, Cwmann and Pencarreg.

In February 2012, Arriva Buses Wales introduced a new number 40 commercial service between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. This service replaced the X40 TrawsCambria service that was subsidised by Carmarthenshire County Council and Ceredigion County Council, with funding from the Welsh Government.

The new Arriva service takes a different route in the Lampeter area compared to the previous X40 service, and it now misses out the villages of Cwmann, Pencarreg and Cribyn.

At that time, the Welsh Government along with Carmarthenshire County Council and Ceredigion County Council looked at a range of options for protecting services to these villages. However, the provisions in the Transport Act 1985 and the Transport Wales Act 2006 expressly prohibit the Welsh Government or local authorities from taking any action that would inhibit open market competition in the provision of commercial local bus services. This meant that we could no longer subsidise the previous X40 service as it would compete with the new commercial 40 service over most of the route between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen.

The Welsh Government and the County Councils were concerned about the impact these service changes would have on people living in Cwmann, Pencarrig and Cribyn. To address this, we arranged for the extension of the very popular Bwcabus demand responsive service so that people in these villages could maintain access to Lampeter and could also connect with the new number 40 service. So far, we have received good feedback on the take-up of the service from people living in these villages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

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