

Inquiry into Integrated Public Transport

Evidence from R. H. Edwards

Clerk to the Enterprise
and Business Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff, CF99 INA.

47, Richmond Road,
Abergavenny,
Mon,
NP7 5RE

Dear Sir,

10 October 2012

Re; Integrated Public Transport Services In Wales.

Many people in Wales may look to Abergavenny and think how lucky the people living there are to have the level of public transport services available there. They are able to travel by bus to Newport, Cardiff and Hereford and also have a main line railway station in the town.

The problems arise when passengers start travelling towards Newport. The journey begins by catching a bus at the Abergavenny bus station that will take them as far the Town Hall Pontypool where the bus terminates and all passengers leave the bus. These passengers then have to join any people who may already be waiting to catch the connecting bus which will be enroute from Blaenavon to Newport.

It should be noted that the bus shelter may already be full therefore the passengers from Abergavenny may on occasions have to stand out in the rain and hope that when the bus arrives from Blaenavon that it not already full.

Holiday travel is a major problem from Abergavenny as only one or two coach operators collect passengers within the town, therefore holidays usually begin with a journey to another town. While some operators pickup in the valleys Newport offers the best selection and often the lowest prices, which while this important to all holiday makers it is of double importance to pensioners and other groups on limited income.

Someone in Abergavenny may see a holiday advertised that they would like and can pay for but the nearest pick point is Newport. Now they have to decide how to get to the pick point, each with the medium size suitcase allowed by the coach operator.

If they are able to put their cases on the bus in Abergavenny, which is doubtful, could they be certain to put them on the bus at Pontypool? The answer is no. They contact friends and relations but cannot find anyone who is available to drive them to Newport on that date. What now?

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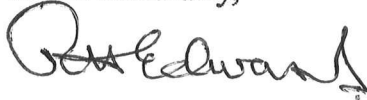
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Although they may all have free bus passes they cannot use them for this journey, because they cannot rely on being able to arrive in Newport via the local bus services, with their suitcases in time to catch their holiday coach.

While the rail and taxi services are available the cost of an outward and return journey just makes the whole thing too costly. So they give up the idea of having a holiday.

Can a transport provider, part of which is paid to provide a free service, just carry sitting passengers without large shopping parcels and suitcases claim to be part of an integrated public transport service? Or are some of us expecting too high a level of service?

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. H. Edwards', written in a cursive style.

R. H. Edwards