

Explanatory Memorandum to the Bus Services (Wales) Act 2026 (Commencement No.1) Order 2026

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Integrated Local Transport Division for laying before Senedd Cymru alongside the Bus Services (Wales) Act 2026 (Commencement No.1) Order 2026. This is in accordance with Section 37F of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 and Standing Order 27.1.

Deputy Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the Bus Services (Wales) Act 2026 (Commencement No.1) Order 2026.

Mark Hooper MS
Deputy Minister for Transport

24 June 2026

1. Purpose and overview

1.1. This commencement order brings into force the following provisions of the Bus Services (Wales) Act 2026 ("the Act") on 30 June 2026:

- a) Section 5(1)(a), (b), (2) and (3) (local bus services: core duties);
- b) Section 6 (preparation of Welsh Bus Network Plan);
- c) Section 7 (review and revision of Welsh Bus Network Plan);
- d) Section 8 (further provision about revisions to the Welsh Bus Network Plan);
- e) Section 9 (revision of Welsh Bus Network Plan: local authority duties); and
- f) Section 34 (provision of bus services by local authorities: removal of restriction).

1.2. This is the first commencement order made to commence provisions within the Act, following its Royal Assent.

2. Matters of special interest to the Legislation Committee

2.1. None.

3. Legislative background

3.1. This commencement order is made under section 48(3) of the Act. Although this commencement order does not follow a Senedd procedure, it is still required to be laid before Senedd Cymru under section 37F of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019.

4. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

4.1. An RIA has not been completed for this commencement order. This is in line with the exemption in section 3.2 of the Welsh Ministers' code of practice for carrying out regulatory impact assessments for subordinate legislation.