



Clr Charlie McCoubrey,  
Leader of the Council,  
Conwy County Borough Council,  
*By Email*

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
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23 January 2023

**URGENT**

**Re: T19 Bus Service**

The Welsh Parliament,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CF99 1NA.  
0300 200 7245

[Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales](mailto:Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales)

Dear Leader of the Council, Clr McCoubrey, Charlie,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing with regards to my serious concerns about the news that Llew Jones has decided to terminate the T19 service between Llandudno and Blaenau Ffestiniog as of 11 February 2023.

The Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru Co-operation agreement makes a clear promise that they would ask Transport for Wales to work with local authorities in North West Wales and the Welsh Government to develop plans for an integrated transport system. Rather than see progress, this cessation is clear evidence of the deterioration of public transport between Conwy and Gwynedd, the impact of which will have a detrimental impact on the environment, community connectivity, the local economy, and the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

As you may be aware, pupils travel from Blaenau Ffestiniog to study at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy. So to get to school before 9am, they rely on the T19 service which departs from Blaenau at 7:20am and arrives in Llanrwst at around 8:00am. Should that service not be offered, the students are only left with one other public transport option: the train which departs Blaenau at 6:24am and arrives in Llanrwst at 6:56am. Consequently, students attending Dyffryn Conwy from Blaenau Ffestiniog would be arriving over two hours before school officially starts. As I have highlighted to the Headteacher of Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, I believe that such an early travel time is unreasonable, could lead to exhaustion, and have devastating impact on learning. Should this issue not be addressed, and if the learners have no access to a private vehicle, I suspect that ultimately they face the reality that the termination of the T19 is making their studies at Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy almost impossible. Indeed, the situation is severe for when the pupils finish school too, because the cancellation of the T19 will mean that they have to wait around an hour and twenty minutes from 15:30pm to 16:53pm to catch the train from Llanrwst to Blaenau.

According to the Human Rights Act 1998, "No person shall be denied the right to education." It is reasonable to suggest that if the service is terminated, and adequate support is not provided from the public purse, namely Conwy Council, Gwynedd Council, and Welsh Government, those pupils who rely on public transport to travel from Blaenau to Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, will effectively be denied their education at the school they currently attend, because there simply is no other reasonable alternative.

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During a cost of living crisis every penny counts. As it stands, a single ticket from Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog on the T19 is £5 for an adult. The alternative, the train, is £9.20 for the same journey. That will mean an 84% increase in the cost of travelling by public transport for an adult. When considering that the T19 is the only service running between communities such as Glan Conwy and Llanrwst, it is clear that the decision to terminate will drive residents either to their cars – if they have one – or to the more expensive train.

In an effort to assist, I have met with Llew Jones, and it was made clear to me that the service needs subsidising so that it can continue. Whilst I was given assurances that the company is working on establishing how much the subsidy will cost, I can tell you with considerable confidence that the public is behind Conwy Council, Gwynedd Council, and the Welsh Government working together to offer a financial package to the company. Indeed, last Thursday I launched a petition which asked two simple questions:

- 1. Would you like to see the T19 service continue?** 216 responded 'Yes' and 2 'No'
- 2. Should the Welsh Government, Conwy Council, and Gwynedd Council subsidise the service with taxpayers money?** 209 responded 'Yes' and 9 'No'

So far, 99% of respondents to my survey wish for the T19 to continue, and 96% wish to see the Welsh Government, Conwy Council, and Gwynedd Council cooperate to subsidise the service with taxpayers money.

Given the clear public will, I would be grateful if you could liaise with the Leader of Gwynedd Council, the Welsh Government, and Llew Jones, so to see what financial support can be offered. I will be sharing a copy of this letter with interested stakeholders also.

Kind regards,

*Janet*

**Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS**