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ANSWERS SOUGHT OVER DELAYS IN BUS GRANTS

Bus routes in Pembrokeshire could be affected because of delays in getting the government grants that help pay for them.

The payment hold-up by the Assembly government has been highlighted in the Senedd by Preseli Pembrokeshire AM Paul Davies.

He told the Senedd that improving public transport in rural areas is vital, especially for the elderly and frail.

But he added that Pembrokeshire County Council said there have been delays in getting the government grants.

“When will your Government pay this money, and why was it not paid before now?” he asked First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

Mr Morgan admitted that there had been a delay in payments caused by the “overwhelming success” of the bus pass scheme that enables older people to travel for free.

Mr Davies now hopes the grants will be speeded up.

“Bus transport is vital, especially in rural areas, and the rising price of fuel is also forcing people out of their cars,” he added.