

Practice Direction: Bus Partnership Forum

Bus Partnership Forum: Code of Conduct on Service and Stability for England (outside London) and Wales

A Code of Conduct has been produced for the Bus Partnership Forum and agreed by the member organisations (representatives of the bus industry, local and central government). It is commended to all operators and local authorities for early implementation in their areas by voluntary agreement. It is supported by Transport Ministers, the National Assembly for Wales and the Traffic Commissioners. The Office of Fair Trading is satisfied that it is compatible with the Competition Act 1998.

The aims of the code are:

- to reduce the number of days of the year on which network or timetable changes take place;
- to reduce the number of changes to an individual service
- to ensure that local authorities have sufficient notice of forthcoming commercial service changes so that they can complete the tendering process and issue publicity in sufficient time for the implementation of the service changes;
- to ensure that operators have sufficient notice of tenders and tender awards so that any consequential operational changes to other services can be implemented from the same date that the tenders come into effect.
- to allow operators and local authorities to reflect important changes in passenger demand, including education and employment needs, and the needs of operational reliability including Traffic Commissioners' performance standards.

The code will apply in England (outside London) and Wales. Its working will be reviewed after 12 months of operation.

A copy of the code can be viewed on the Department for Transport web site by clicking [here](#). Hard copies can also be obtained by writing to: Buses and Taxis Division, The Department for Transport, Zone 3/13, Great Minster House, Marsham St., London, SW1P 4DR.