

Thursday 30 March (Day 1) – Session 6 – 16:00hrs

Navigating coach accessibility

Since 2020, the coach sector has dealt with a crippling pandemic while also facing the enormous challenge of transforming its fleet's accessibility. With a pragmatic medium-term solution in place and a review of the Regulations pending, we ask whether PSVAR is the right approach for coach. Should all coaches be in scope? Is it the technical solutions to accessing high-floor vehicles that are wrong?

Speaker: John Birtwistle, Chair, Head of Policy, First Bus



John is Head of Policy for First Bus. He leads initiatives on a variety of subjects including domestic and international policy and legislation, local authority partnerships, business opportunities, concessionary travel, vehicle technology, legal issues, ticketing schemes, autonomous vehicles, open data and passenger information and has advised on the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit in the UK and USA. John has represented First, and the UK bus industry, on a wide range of Governmental and industry committees. He currently chairs the Traveline board and the Operator Digital Initiative, and sits on the Executive of the Rural Services Partnership. He was the 2016 President of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, the UK bus and coach trade association, and is the current President of the European Passenger Transport Operators association.



Speaker: Ian Tetley, Managing Director, Tetley's Motor Services Limited

A chartered electrical engineer with 20 year's electricity supply and car industry experience in Australia, Japan and UK before joining the bus and coach industry in 2001. The third generation to operate the family business established by his grandparents in 1949, he has grown the business from six to fifty-plus vehicles.

Vice-chair of CPT Yorkshire region, sits on the national coach commission and recently elected fellow of CILT.



Speaker: Will Bee, Chair at DPTAC Local Travel Working Group

Will Bee is a longstanding member of the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee where he chair's their Local Travel Working Group covering Buses, Coaches, Taxis and Demand Responsive Transport. He retired from full time work in 2018 after a career working in community regeneration and equalities.



Speaker: Yann Holzapfel, Head of Local Passenger Transport Accessibility Delivery, Department for Transport

Yann Holzapfel is the head of Local Passenger Transport Accessibility Delivery at the Department for Transport, with a remit that includes delivering the review of the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (the PSVAR). He previously worked in the Department's motor insurance team.



Speaker: Julie Hartley, Sales Director, Irizar UK



Julie Hartley brings over 30 years transport industry knowledge to the role of sales director at Irizar UK.

Moving from trucks to buses and coaches in 1998 to join a well-known rental company, Julie's varied roles have covered both sales and marketing at major manufacturers as well as four years spent at the organisers of both Euro Bus Expo and Coach and Bus UK exhibitions.

Julie joined Irizar UK in 2014 and has since risen to the position of sales director. Within the role she sets sales and marketing strategy for the UK, working closely with the other board directors on how to tackle some of the industries challenges.

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