

Friday 31 March (Day 2) – Session 2 – 10:00hrs

This industry needs drivers

Recruiting and retaining more bus and coach drivers is a burning issue for our members. Our panel of experts will update on industry and Government progress to tackle these crippling shortages and speed up recruitment. We'll also consider what more can be done to keep the people we have got, explore the question of pay and ask how we can become truly inclusive.

Speaker: Keith McNally, Chair, Operations Director, CPT UK



Keith McNally is the Operations Director for CPT. Keith has responsibility for engaging with a range of Government and industry stakeholders, and for representing the industry on a wide variety of strategic operational matters, including driver shortages. He leads the CPT Operations Team, providing operational & technical support to CPT members. Prior to joining CPT, Keith worked for two multinational travel and transport organisations in a variety of roles that included managing bus operations, strategic planning and managing major projects, in the UK, Australia and Europe.

Speaker: Dal Kalirai, Sales & Partnerships Director, National Express



Working in the transport sector for over 30 years Dal is a keen advocate for the West Midlands region for sustainability, growth and equality & diversity. Working her way up the ranks, Dal has played a key role in transforming the business to be more customer focused, leading on many pioneering transport & ticketing technology projects. Dal spends her time creating innovative and engaging ways for businesses to encourage modal shift from cars to public transport. One of her proudest achievements is enabling free bus travel for college students across the West Midlands ensuring young people get opportunities to access education.



Speaker: Matt Barnes, Director, Barnes Coaches

Matt has been a Director at Barnes Coaches for 20 years. They are based in Swindon and operate 41 vehicles. Matt mainly works in the Holiday side of the company but set up an apprenticeship scheme in September 2018. They have so far brought over 20 drivers into the industry and drivers they have trained themselves account for over 25% of their current drivers.



Speaker: Jessica Matthew, Co-Director in Local Transport, Department for Transport

Jessica Matthew is Co-Director in Local Transport, Department for Transport. The directorate's remit is wide, covering a number of PM priorities including: the Levelling Up Fund, buses, active travel (cycling), accessibility of the transport network for people with disabilities, major local infrastructure and highways maintenance.



Speaker: Martin Dean, Managing Director, UK Regional Bus, Go Ahead



Martin is responsible for overseeing the performance of Go-Ahead's UK bus companies outside London, stretching from Devon and Cornwall to the north-east of England. With more than three decades' experience in transport, he is also chairman of the bus trade body, the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

He was previously head of Business Development for Go-Ahead, where he was successful in identifying new business opportunities, both domestically and internationally which included leading the Group's expansion into Manchester in the UK, Singapore, and the Republic of Ireland overseas.

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