



**The TAS Partnership Limited**  
Passenger Transport Specialists

TAS is currently supporting the CT sector at a time when unprecedented demands are being placed upon it. Our initial information sheet was circulated on 6 April – this newsletter provides updates. For previous information, newsletters, and further debate on the current crisis, please see TAS website:

<https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

### DVLA & Licence Renewals

DVLA has confirmed that bus licence renewals for drivers aged 45 or over, which would normally include a D4 medical examination report, can now be renewed for one year without the D4. Unfortunately this does not extend to drivers over 70 who are needing to renew their D1 (101) entitlement and this is known to be impacting on some CTs at the moment unless the drivers can somehow get the medical undertaken. DVLA states: "This notice does not apply to any application to renew small lorry (C1) and minibus (D1 (101)) entitlements included on car licences issued before 1997."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applications-for-renewing-lorry-and-bus-driving-licences-at-age-45-and-over-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/important-applications-for-the-renewal-of-lorry-and-bus-driving-licences-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

### Community Transport Association

TAS has worked with CTA to produce operational guidance. CTA is providing regular information updates here:

<https://ctauk.org/covid19-guidance/>

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& COVID-19  
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### DfT Guidance for Passengers on Public Transport

Department for Transport's guidance for the passenger has emphasised that public transport should be used as a last resort for essential journeys: "Consider all other forms of transport before using public transport." It is of course, still the only resort for huge numbers of people. Operators of smaller buses (including CT providers) have been grappling with the social distancing recommendations and often struggling to meet the standard. This does not mean that services in smaller vehicles cannot be offered. DfT guidance says that: "Public Health England recommends keeping a 2 metre distance from other people, where possible. Where this is not possible you should keep the time you spend near others as short as possible and avoid physical contact."



Passengers have a role to play in maintaining these standards – and this would include notices explaining that capacity has to be reduced. The average CT minibus is unlikely to be able to carry more than three passengers at once, some even fewer. A pre-booked service can regulate

demand to a degree, even to the point of scheduling one passenger per vehicle run. The driver might be able to keep a two metre distance if they get off the vehicle temporarily whilst the passenger boards. If assistance is required by the passenger then this will be one of the “not possible” moments. It will be less easy for a Community Bus service to regulate demand – switching to a pre-booked arrangement might be better.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Welsh Government advice for passengers:

<https://gov.wales/travelling-safely-coronavirus-guidance-public>

Scottish Government has published its own guidance:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/transport-transition-plan/advice-on-how-to-travel-safely/>

## Independent Age Grants Fund



Independent Age is offering grants to charities involved in work with older people: “We can make grants of between £5,000 and £15,000 for up to six months. We will support any kind of work that you believe will make a real and immediate difference to older people living in particularly complex and challenging situations or older people in danger of being out of sight and out of mind.”

<https://www.independentage.org/community/grants-fund>

## Alpkit Grassroots Support

Normally supporting active outdoor leisure pursuits, Alpkit is now accepting applications for financial support to “individuals or organisations serving those affected by coronavirus, across the country. Examples include:

- ) Being active in your local community to help elderly or vulnerable people
- ) Minimising the impact of self-isolation for those in quarantine and need access to food, medicines or social care

- ) Supporting foodbanks and increasing the number of meals on wheels deliveries to support the elderly
- ) Supporting those who are homeless or in temporary accommodation
- ) Bringing adventure indoors and overcoming the obstacles that prevent us benefiting from going outdoors.”



<https://alpkit.com/blogs/foundation/adapting-to-the-coronavirus-crisis>

## More DfT Funding for Public Transport



Grant Shapps has announced a new round of funding “to protect and increase transport services, level up infrastructure and regenerate local economies after the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.” This includes £254m for buses “allowing people *travelling to hospitals, supermarkets* or their place of work to get to their destination safely and quickly, while helping ensure there is enough space for them to observe social distancing guidelines. The funding will be kept under review to ensure that full services can be up and running as quickly as possible.” Whilst the emphasis of much of the new funds would appear to be on commuter journeys, there is clearly potential for CT operators to benefit from this fund. It may depend on how DfT and / or local authorities choose to define “buses”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-announces-new-measures-to-keep-passengers-safe-now-and-level-up-for-the-future>

## Notable CT Responses from Around the UK

Brighton & Hove Community Transport's Home Delivery Shopping Service has been very well received. They have come up with the great idea of filming a few of the deliveries to a number of customers and capturing very positive feedback. Aside from their immediate interest, the videos could form an important historical archive for future use.



The videos are posted on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/BHCommunityTransport/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BHCommunityTransport/posts/?ref=page_internal)

Scarborough Dial-a-Ride has also used video to reassure passengers about its cleaning routine. There is a short film of one of their vehicles being sanitised with the 'Zapptiser Fogger' spray on their website here: <http://www.scarboroughdialaride.org/covid-19.html>



Ealing Community Transport has made over 10,000 food deliveries as of last week. In fact CEO Anna Whitty MBE reports that the figure is now in excess of 11,400. Anna commented: "Being involved in such a worthwhile community response where our contribution is genuinely appreciated is very rewarding. It is also good for staff mental health and morale during these unprecedented times."



<https://ectcharity.co.uk/news/story/ect-food-deliveries-top-10000-thanks-to-partnerships-across-the-borough>

Whilst many transport operators are currently grappling with the imminent re-opening of schools, Ealing CT's Dorset branch Dorset Community Transport has been pleased to announce that it has been able to continue carrying the children of key workers to school throughout the crisis. Manager Tim Christian said: "I'm really pleased we have been able to keep the home-to-school services going since the first week of lockdown. Whilst there are very few pupils attending school, this is an important way in which DCT is able to support families throughout this time and, in doing so, contribute to society's joint efforts."



<https://ectcharity.co.uk/news/story/dct-keeps-the-wheels-moving-for-key-worker-schoolchildren-and-isolated-dorset-residents>

## Transport Scotland - Guidance for Transport Sector



Scottish Government's Transport Transition Plan is aimed at creating a recovery strategy for transport in the near future: "Public transport has an essential function in our society. We need to consider the impact on those who are most vulnerable and those who are most dependent on public transport and for accessing essential services." CT is not referenced in the plan directly.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/guidance-and-next-steps-for-passengers-and-transport-sector/>

### Post Office - Pay Out Now

Although cashless transactions are being widely encouraged, some CTs will be needing to undertake shopping for those who may not be set up for digital banking or able to access any cash. The Post Office's new Pay Out Now scheme is designed to enable cash to be drawn from the Post Office by a nominated person on behalf of someone who is shielded or self-isolating.



"A customer can call their financial institution requesting a payment, the financial institution then sends them a text or email, and the customer can go into a Post Office to scan their barcode or voucher. From beginning to end, the process can take minutes."

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/coronavirus-help-support/access-to-cash>

## Request for Information – Contactless Payments

The need for cash-free, contactless transactions on fare paying services will be understood by all CT operators. Some already had contactless systems in place prior to the COVID-19 crisis, whilst others have adopted new measures at short notice. Whilst it is fairly straight-forward to retrospectively charge known members on account (as might suit a s19 Dial-a-Ride service) the situation on a s22 Community Bus may be more difficult to introduce, especially with the need to offer tickets or receipts. TAS is interested to learn of any systems that CTs may have adopted for any kind of service, be they software-based products, card readers or more ad-hoc solutions. Please contact John Atkins [john.atkins@taspartnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspartnership.com).



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email [john.atkins@taspartnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspartnership.com)