

## **Text of letter from the DfT to Peter Bradley MD UKCOA**

We are writing to update you and your members on the launch of medium-term exemptions (MTEs) from the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) for Rail Replacement (RR) and Home-to-School (HTS) services, which will replace the current system of short-term exemptions for RR and HTS services which are due to expire on 30 June, and 31 July respectively.

As of today (**Wednesday 13 April**), operators seeking exemptions for RR and/or HTS services must apply online. The online application form, guidance on how to apply and other information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-exemption-from-psvar-accessibility-regulations-for-home-to-school-or-rail-replacement-services>. It is strongly recommended that before completing the form, applicants read the accompanying guidance carefully and make sure that they have the required information to hand.

The closing date for applications for RR (or RR and HTS) services is **Tuesday 17 May**, and the closing date for applications for HTS services is **Tuesday 31 May**.

MTEs will be valid until 31 July 2026 and are qualified exemptions that will allow RR and HTS services to continue operating, while requiring operators to take specific steps to make their fleet progressively more compliant with PSVAR within a specified timeframe.

While we have written directly to all coach operators via the Office of the Traffic Commissioner, it would be helpful if you would cascade this information to your members.

We appreciate your constructive engagement as we have developed the approach for MTEs and will follow up with you in the coming months to seek your views on how MTEs are working in practice.