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## Finding Coach Parking Made Easier

Finding safe, reliable and accessible parking is a constant challenge for coach operators, whether you're planning a day trip, a holiday tour or simply navigating city centre drop-offs and pick-ups. Fortunately, there are a couple of great tools designed specifically to support the industry by taking the guesswork out of where to park.

At a recent UKCOA members meeting, several members highlighted just how useful these resources have been in day-to-day operations, prompting us to share them more widely.

### **ParkYourBus**

[www.parkyourbus.com](http://www.parkyourbus.com) is a free online platform created for coach and bus operators. It allows you to search for parking spaces by location, date and time, whether you need somewhere for a few hours or overnight. The site provides details such as the facilities available, vehicle capacity, contact information and whether pre-booking is required. It's ideal for planning in advance, especially when travelling to unfamiliar towns and cities.

### **CoachBuddy**

Another excellent resource is [www.coachbuddy.org.uk](http://www.coachbuddy.org.uk), an initiative originally set up by a retired coach driver with input from others in the industry. Coach Buddy offers location-specific advice on coach access, drop-off and pick-up points, parking bays, charges and any local restrictions you need to be aware of. It's a great companion for everyday route planning and helping new or occasional drivers get their bearings.

Both websites are kept up to date with contributions from fellow operators and local authorities, and UKCOA encourages members to make use of these free tools. The more they are used and shared, the more effective they become for the wider coach community.

If you have a favourite parking spot or local insight that could benefit others, both sites welcome user contributions so don't hesitate to get involved.

# Dates for Your Diary



## **15<sup>th</sup> July**

Online Members Meeting

## **1<sup>st</sup> August**

PSVAR Exemptions

Compliance Level Increases

## **August**

CoachFest (Date TBC)

# Corporation Tax Relief

If your coach business is a limited company, it's important to understand how corporation tax works. Since April 2023, companies with profits over £250,000 pay 25% in tax. If your profits are £50,000 or less, you pay 19%. If your profits fall somewhere in between, you'll pay a gradually increasing rate known as marginal relief. These limits are reduced if your business has links to other companies or if your accounts cover less than 12 months.

If you're a sole trader or partnership, corporation tax doesn't apply to you, but it's still worth knowing about in case you decide to change your business structure in the future.

There are several ways you can reduce the amount of tax your company pays. One of the most common is capital allowances, which let you claim back the cost of things like new coaches, equipment or IT systems. If you're doing something new, like developing your own scheduling software or trying out greener vehicle tech, you might be able to claim research and development (R&D) relief, which reduces your tax bill further.

Some operators producing digital content or training materials might also qualify for creative industry reliefs. There are other reliefs available too, like disincorporation relief for businesses that are changing structure, or marginal relief to ease the jump between tax bands.

These allowances can make a real difference, so it's worth checking with your accountant to make sure you're not missing out.

You can read more at: [Corporation Tax rates and reliefs: Rates - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/corporation-tax-rates-and-reliefs)

# Summer Safety

As millions of people travel across the UK this summer to attend music festivals, sporting events, Pride celebrations and other large gatherings, it's important to remember that busy events and venues can unfortunately be potential targets for terrorism.

Coach operators play a crucial role in keeping the public safe. Often the first and last point of contact for passengers travelling to these events, drivers and staff are uniquely placed to notice when something doesn't feel right. Whether it's suspicious behaviour, unusual packages, or something that just doesn't add up, your vigilance can make a real difference.

Bus and coach staff are the 'eyes and ears of the road'. By staying alert and reporting anything unusual, you can help protect not just your passengers, but the wider public too. If you see something that doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and report it.

The government's latest summer safety campaign highlights the importance of remaining aware during this busy season and the poster below is included with this newsletter to display in your depot, on staff noticeboards or in rest areas as a reminder that we all have a role to play.

Let's work together to ensure that summer travel remains safe and enjoyable for everyone.



# Faster School Trips Through Dover

The government has published guidance aimed at helping school groups reduce border processing time when travelling by coach from Dover to Calais. While the process is optional, schools and travel organisers can benefit from faster boarding by submitting passenger information in advance to participating ferry operators, and members may find this guidance useful when supporting schools through the travel preparation process.

If the ferry operator is participating in the scheme they will need to collect specific travel information for all individuals in the group, including children, adults and drivers. This includes surname, first name, date of birth, nationality and document type. For visa nationals living in the UK, travel to France may be visa-free when part of an approved school group.



The group must also provide evidence that the school is listed on an official UK education register. This can be a screenshot from national databases such as “Get Information About Schools” (England), “Find a School” (Wales), “School Contact Details” (Scotland), or the Northern Ireland “Schools Directory.”

All required data must be submitted to the ferry operator at least 72 hours before departure. Changes to the submitted list are permitted after that point, but only passengers included in the original upload will be eligible for fast-track border checks.

On the day of travel, each coach should display a windscreen label showing the school name (first seven letters), the coach number, and the number of passengers on board.

Further details and a full step-by-step breakdown of the process can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dover-to-calais-school-trips>



# Update to Coach Restrictions in Bibury

Following earlier reports about potential restrictions on coach access to Bibury, Gloucestershire County Council has now introduced a temporary traffic management trial over the May bank holiday weekend. This move marks the latest development in ongoing efforts to manage the impact of high visitor numbers.



In response to concerns from residents about congestion and pedestrian safety, the council has temporarily closed the existing coach bays in the village centre. Instead, new bus stops have been installed to allow for safer passenger drop-off and pick-up, with car parking suspended opposite the trout farm to accommodate the changes.

The council says the trial was developed in collaboration with local businesses, coach operators, and community members. It

follows complaints about unsafe manoeuvres, particularly coaches reversing into bays without appropriate guidance and parking enforcement officers will be in place to issue penalty charges for non-compliance.

The trial in Bibury is expected to inform longer-term proposals, which may include prohibiting coaches from stopping or parking in the village entirely. We encourage members who visit Bibury over the Bank Holiday to provide feedback and share their experiences on the trial.