



## HELPING YOU GET AHEAD OF THE GAME WITH BUS OPEN DATA

This has been a challenging year for the industry, to say the least. With constantly changing operational concerns, operators can be forgiven for focussing very much on the short term, but the Bus Open Data Service (BODS) 31st December deadline is looming.

### Local authorities

“The BODS TransXChange Exporter is a particularly useful tool for our Local Authority clients that are keen to offer a bureau service for operators of their supported services. Also, our OmniFLAG module will enable Authorities to meet their new obligations to maintain the National Bus Stop database. Talk to us to discover more.”

Michael Meilton, Omnibus

Omnibus is making it as easy as possible for clients to provide seamless, compliant timetable data for BODS with a brand new module. Clients can now produce TransXChange 2.4 files in accordance with the BODS profile, giving customers the benefit of a three-month window to refresh their timetable data prior to the 31st December deadline.

Peter Crichton, Managing Director, Omnibus, explains: “Our team has worked hard over the last few months to ensure our customers have plenty of time to prepare for the BODS deadline at the end of the year. This enables them to get ahead of the game and establish their BODS data flow now, rather than in the busy weeks before Christmas. As always, the Omnibus support team is on hand to help guide anyone through the process.”

“From 31st December 2020, bus operators will be legally required to publish their timetable data. The Bus Open Data Service is publicly available now for those who wish to get on board and publish their timetable data early. It is very encouraging that many have already done so. For those of you yet to do so, we’d encourage you to talk with your scheduling software supplier about sharing your timetable data with BODS.”

Meera Nayyar, Head of Passenger Experience, Buses and Taxis, Department for Transport



# 'NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION'

When it first became clear that the public transport sector was going to be hugely affected by the lockdown, Omnibus developers immediately took on the challenge of finding ways to help.

While the industry faced unique challenges in managing operations under exceptional circumstances, developers ensured that Omnibus software enabled operators to react quickly and effectively to the rapidly changing situation. The Omnibus development team, all working from home, worked non-stop to bring several new initiatives to customers helping them adapt to a new way of working.

**The range of new features was designed to address and simplify the unique requirements necessary to operate under the new conditions, such as managing staff safely while maintaining social distancing.**

The next generation of CrewPLAN.NET is the company's award-winning automatic crew scheduling software. The latest enhanced functionality gives increased constraint flexibility, plus an improved algorithm gives operators greater control, delivering even greater efficiencies. It also now accounts for variations in opening and closing times for canteen points, to ensure that canteens are available for other staff at certain times of the day.

To further assist with the management of social distancing, OmniBASE has a new Mealbreak Graph to show how many duties are on break at any given time.



Users of the Omnibus module myDAS Touch now have a remote sign-on facility by scanning a QR code at a sign-on point, enabling them to comply with social distancing. Also, additional codes have been set up in order to assist customers with furloughed staff. These ensure that once staff are required again, they can be made available very quickly.



Omnibus has received lots of positive feedback from customers using the new features, confirming that the software has allowed them to react quickly and effectively to the challenges of coronavirus.

Peter Crichton concludes: "We're always working hard to deliver more – and this has never been more important. As we continue to face an ever-changing world, our aim is to give our customers the tools they need to make life easier. We are happy to provide support, advice, assistance and consultancy as the industry works hard to re-establish its services."

**Peter Crichton, Managing Director, Omnibus, said:**

**"It's great to be part of such a positive industry which has shown unwavering determination to carry on and overcome all of the obstacles this current situation has brought. We're very proud to have been able to help where possible, by providing assistance, support and advice as we all adapt to the ongoing situation."**

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