

**First West of England Ltd** No. 00025088, Registered office Enterprise House,  
Easton Road, Bristol BS5 ODZ

## **CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL**

ISSUE DATE: APRIL 2024

### **LIABILITY AND COMPLAINTS LIMITATIONS OF OUR LIABILITY TO YOU**

Journeys may take longer than expected or may need to be diverted or cancelled. Where possible, we will advise passengers of disruptions.

We shall not be liable and will not accept claims for direct or indirect losses, damages, cost or inconvenience that you suffer as a result of cancellation, delay, diversion or termination of any of our services, or of our services being unavailable to you as a result of the vehicle being fully loaded, at capacity or for any other reasons, save to the extent that any losses are covered by fixed Passenger Charter compensation schemes which are specified locally.

We shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to your property, including any lost property placed under our control, except where specified in these Conditions.

Further information is available at Condition 2 of these Standard Conditions of Travel.

These Conditions do not affect your non-excludable statutory rights as a Consumer.

### **COMPLAINTS HANDLING**

If you wish to make a suggestion or complaint about a bus service or driver you should be aware that the provider of that service is a bus operating company (and not FirstGroup plc). The name of the relevant bus operating company may be shown on your ticket or on the applicable bus timetable for your journey.

It will assist in handling your suggestion or complaint if you can identify the relevant bus operating company, date and time of the relevant event, route number, location and vehicle number when making any complaint.

Each of our UK Bus regions is supported by a dedicated Customer Service Centre responsible for handling suggestions and complaints efficiently and effectively. You can find contact details by going to our website at (<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/help-and-support>). This will provide you with telephone contact details, as well as the facility to contact us online, through social media, live chat or by completing a 'Contact Us' form. You can also tell us about your journey by visiting (<http://www.tellfirstbus.com>). Information on how to contact your local operator is also available on all buses, in all timetables and, where possible, in information leaflets.

Further information is available at Condition 12 of these Standard Conditions of Travel.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Throughout these Conditions, references to the “Company”, “we”, “us” and “our” should be read as referring to **First West of England Ltd** No. 00025088, Registered office: Enterprise House, Easton Road, Bristol BS5 ODZ

1.2. The attention of all Customers is drawn to these Conditions, which apply to all travel on our bus services, unless stated otherwise. Customers must adhere to these Conditions, and we will do the same.

1.3. These Conditions apply from the issue date shown above to all our bus services (excluding any services provided on behalf of Transport for London or Transport for Greater Manchester) and replace all previous terms and conditions of carriage or travel issued by FirstGroup plc and/or any of its UK Bus operating companies.

1.4. We reserve the right to vary, alter or amend the Conditions from time to time without notice. There may also be specific variations and/or supplements to these Conditions on certain services (including, for example, where they are operated on behalf of other organisations) – these variations will be available locally.

1.5. These Conditions are consistent with the relevant statutory regulations, including those relating to the conduct of passengers, and do not affect your statutory rights. Words with special meanings (shown by the use of capital letters) are explained at the end of this document.

## 2 GENERAL CONDITIONS

2.1. We aim to operate services as advertised in our timetables but there may be occasions when journeys take longer than expected and/or services may need to be diverted or cancelled due to factors beyond our control. These factors may include, without limitation, traffic congestion, road traffic accidents, road works, road closures, major events, adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen operating circumstances.

2.2. To the extent possible, we will advise Customers of any disruption to our services. However, in the event of cancellation, delay, diversion or termination of any of our services, or of our services being unavailable to you as a result of the vehicle being fully loaded, at capacity or for any other reasons, we shall not be liable and will not accept claims for direct or indirect losses, damages, cost or inconvenience that you suffer as a result, save to the extent that any losses are covered by fixed Passenger Charter compensation schemes which are specified and advertised locally.

2.3. Customers are responsible for their own onward travel arrangements. We do not guarantee that our service will connect with any bus, train or other service at the time specified in the timetable, or that the service will arrive at any point at the advertised time. You should make appropriate allowances or alternative arrangements to ensure you are able to make any onward travel or other arrangements you have made.

2.4. We accept no liability for a holder of a valid pre-paid ticket or valid pass being unable to use such ticket or pass due to lack of room on a vehicle, or where it is at full capacity, or failure of a service to operate. Customers holding a valid pass or valid pre-paid ticket have no priority over other fare paying Customers.

2.5. We shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to Customer property, including 'lost property' placed under our control, except as otherwise specified in these Conditions.

2.6. We do not in any way exclude or limit our liability for death or personal injury resulting from our negligence (or that of our employees or agents), nor for any other events our liability for which cannot be excluded (including, without limitation, the Rights of Passengers in Bus and Coach Transport (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018.

### **3 GETTING ON & OFF THE BUS**

3.1. You may only get on or off the vehicle at designated bus stops or stopping points on the specific route on which travel is taking place. Where a 'hail and ride' scheme operates, you may only get on or off, on request, at places considered safe by the driver.

3.2. You should indicate clearly to the driver of an approaching bus if you wish to get on the bus. You must be at a bus stop and give such indication in sufficient time to enable the driver to stop safely. In all other circumstances we accept no responsibility if the driver does not stop or permit you to board the bus.

3.3. When you get on a bus for travel you must either:

**(a)** show the driver or scan a valid ticket or valid travel pass or other form of authority to travel;

**(b)** successfully present a 'smart' payment card, a bank payment card, or a mobile device to the on-board ticket machine or device reader; or

**(c)** pay the driver the correct fare for the journey intended, whether specifically requested to do so or not. Collect your ticket from the ticket machine and retain it for inspection by our Revenue Protection Officers until you leave the bus.

3.5. Where your ticket or fare is subject to proof of entitlement to that fare your ticket will not be valid without the relevant qualifying photocard or other qualifying proof of entitlement. You should present any 'Extra Help to Travel' card or similar to the driver at the same time.

3.6. You must not use the emergency exits on any vehicle except in a genuine emergency or where instructed to do so by the driver.

3.7. When you wish to get off the bus, please ring the bell once to alert the driver. For your comfort and safety, please give the driver sufficient time to be able to slow down safely for

your stop. For your own and others' safety, you are requested to remain seated until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.

3.8. Save in exceptional circumstances, the driver is not permitted to allow passengers to get on or off when the vehicle is in motion, held up in traffic or stationary at traffic lights. At bus stations and stands, passengers cannot be picked up once the driver has signalled his/her/their intention for the vehicle to leave the stand.

3.9. Subject to paragraph 2.6 above, we accept no responsibility for Customers attempting to get on or off at any prohibited place or when the vehicle is moving, or for Customers failing to get off at their destination.

## **4 FARES AND TICKETS**

### **GENERAL**

4.1. While we will endeavour to advise you of the best fare option or combination for your travel requirements we will not provide any refund or replacement ticket should another fare option or combination prove to be more appropriate.

4.1.1 Every customer must ensure they are in possession of a valid ticket, pass, validated payment or smartcard or other authority to travel for their entire journey. Our Revenue Protection Officers will charge a Standard Fare to any passenger not complying with this requirement.

4.2. Customers who are unable to or who refuse to pay the appropriate fare, who do not hold a valid ticket or valid pass or who do not successfully "tap on" with a valid 'smart' card or bank payment card or device for the journey, may be asked to leave the vehicle or be charged a Standard Fare by our Revenue Protection Officers.

4.3. Fares are charged in accordance with the fare tables for each route. You may view the fare tables on request at the regional head office, or at the offices of the depot responsible for operating the service. Drivers will also carry fare tables and/or be able to access an electronic version on-bus (for the service being operated by that vehicle). You should ensure that the correct ticket (corresponding with the fare paid and valid for the journey) and change (where applicable) has been issued and point out any discrepancies to the driver immediately as mistakes cannot be rectified later.

4.4. Unless otherwise stated, payment of fares must be made in cash Sterling. We do not accept on-bus payment by cheque or by £50 note in any circumstances. Where change is given, drivers may also not have sufficient change for other bank notes at certain times.

4.5. Other than when payment by contactless payment card (or similar technology) is available on-bus, we do not accept on-bus payment by credit or debit card except where this is locally advertised. Payments by credit or debit card are accepted for purchase of certain season tickets at travel shops (as advertised locally) and via our website.

4.6. To help us to run our services smoothly the correct fare is always appreciated. Our drivers will provide change if they are able to do so.

4.7. We operate some services on an exact fare, no change given basis – this will be publicised locally. Where this is the case, if you are paying a cash fare you must declare to the driver the journey that you intend to take and deposit the appropriate amount in the coin acceptance unit. The driver will have no access to change in the event of overpayment.

4.8. If you are not able to provide the exact fare (or, where change is given, the driver does not have exact change) the driver will inform you of your options for redeeming any overpayment. In some areas you may be able to overpay for your journey; receive an overpaid fare slip in lieu of cash; and redeem this slip for cash or further tickets at an office of the local operating company. Options are specified locally. Further enquiries can be made with our Customer Services Centre.

4.9. A valid ticket, valid pass or 'smart' or bank payment card or device, along with any qualifying proof of entitlement, must be available for inspection for the entire journey and produced on request by the driver, a Company official or a Revenue Protection Officer. If you are unable to produce a valid ticket, valid pass or 'smart' or bank payment card or device and/or proof of entitlement for inspection, or if it has expired or been altered or tampered with or is illegible, you will be liable to pay the Standard Fare for the journey being taken. We will not refund you this fare or uphold an appeal against a Standard Fare charge if you later find the missing ticket or travel pass. In the case of a contactless payment card we will accept your recital of the final four digits of the card number in lieu of presentation of the card.

4.10. The Standard Fare will be charged for any single journey unless a Customer either:

**(a)** makes payment of the appropriate sum to the driver when getting on the bus, collects and retains their ticket for inspection and is carrying any proof of entitlement when travelling on discounted, student or child tickets;

**(b)** holds and can produce to a Revenue Protection Officer or other Company official on request a valid pass or valid pre-paid ticket along with any proof of entitlement when travelling on discounted, student or child tickets; or

**(c)** successfully presents a 'smart' or bank payment card or device to the on-board ticket machine and is in possession of any proof of entitlement when travelling on discounted, student or child tickets.

4.11. The Standard Fare is £50.

4.12. In the event that the Customer has been able to make part-payment of the fare for the journey (but not the full fare specified in the relevant fare table), the part-payment will not be deducted from the Standard Fare due and payable by the Customer.

4.13. Any Customer who does not make payment of the Standard Fare immediately on being requested to do so by a Revenue Protection Officer or other Company official is required to give

their name and address to such Revenue Protection Officer or Company official on demand, as well as proof of such identification.

4.14. Failure to pay the Standard Fare within 21 days will result in an increased cost to reflect the additional administration costs incurred by us and may lead to a County Court summons being issued to recover the debt.

4.15. When you complete the journey you have paid for, or the validity of your pass or other relevant documentation expires either by time or travel zone, you must leave the bus or pay another fare to continue your journey. This will be treated as a separate journey. It is your responsibility to have a valid ticket for the whole journey.

4.16. Single or return fares may be calculated with reference to fare stages applicable to the route. If you get on between two fare stage boundaries you will be charged from the previous stage. If you get off between two fare stage boundaries you will be charged to the following stage. If you are travelling in areas where zonal fares apply, your fare will be determined by the number of zones you travel in or through.

4.17. You may not break your journey when travelling on a single or return ticket unless our publicity specifically advises that this is possible. Except where it is specifically stated to the contrary, tickets, passes or other relevant documentation are not transferable. You cannot use a multi-journey ticket (e.g. travel card) for more than one person during the same journey unless it is a "family" or "group" ticket .

4.18. You must only buy tickets from an authorised outlet or from the driver. Not all tickets are necessarily available for purchase from the driver. Buying a pre-paid ticket from an unauthorised source invalidates the ticket, and the ticket may be withheld by us and not returned for further use.

4.19. If you transfer from another operator's vehicle to one of our vehicles, you will be considered to be starting a new journey. You will be required to pay the appropriate fare if you do not hold, or are unable to produce on request, a valid pass, valid pre-paid ticket or valid through ticket.

4.20. If our ticket equipment is not functioning properly and as a consequence is not able to produce tickets, you must still pay the correct fare for your journey.

4.21. No Customer will be permitted to use a ticket, pass or 'smart' travel mandate which has:

**(a)** been damaged, mutilated or defaced;

**(b)** been issued for use by another person on terms that it is not transferable;

**(c)** expired: or

**(d)** in the reasonable opinion of the driver or a Company official, been obtained fraudulently.

4.22. Customers are responsible for the safety and integrity of their own tickets and passes once validly issued. We are not obliged to replace your ticket, pass or permit to travel if it is lost, mislaid or stolen. You will have to purchase a new ticket to allow you to use our services. If your “smart” travel card is lost, mislaid or stolen, it is within our discretion as to whether or not to issue a replacement and this may incur an administrative charge.

4.23. If your ticket has been damaged but remains legible then we may provide you with a replacement for the remainder of its period of validity, or offer you the choice to purchase a replacement ticket from our usual range which may be valid for a longer period, but we will require you to pay the difference if you choose this option.

4.24. Contactless payments are promoted and operated by FirstGroup Holdings Limited.

4.25. If you have a paper ticket or a ticket on your mobile phone (an ‘M-Ticket’) that includes a barcode then you will be required to scan this ticket using the bar code scanner adjacent to the ticket machine on boarding the bus. You may also be required to scan this ticket if requested to do so by a Revenue Protection Officer or other company official during the course of your journey. Where your ticket is an ‘M-Ticket’, these Conditions are in addition to the terms and conditions applicable to that M-Ticket. In the case of any inconsistency, the terms and conditions applicable to that M-Ticket (including any limitation on time for presenting that M-Ticket) will have precedence.

4.26. If you are using your contactless bank card as part of a capped ticketing arrangement whereby your use of First (and, optionally, other operators’) services is capped at a pre-determined daily, weekly or longer limit, you are required to present this contactless bank card to the reader adjacent to the ticket machine on each journey you make. You may also be required to present the same card to the same (or to a different) card reader as you alight the vehicle on each journey. You will be provided with detailed information on these requirements locally as they will be dependent on the type of capped ticketing arrangement. You may also be required to present this card if requested to do so by a Revenue Protection Officer or other company official during the course of your journey.

## **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

4.27. Concessionary travel schemes for many categories of passenger are operated by local authorities in England, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. The terms, rules and conditions applying to these schemes are the responsibility of, and the validity of individual passes is determined by, the pass issuing authority.

4.28. Concessionary passengers must comply with all aspects of these Conditions, in addition to the issuing authority’s rules and conditions. Where required locally to do so, when making a journey using a concessionary travel pass you must advise the driver of your intended destination.

4.29. If you hold a valid concessionary permit or pass, or a National Entitlement Card, you must present the pass to the on-board ticket equipment to ensure its validity and, on request, show it to the driver. In some areas, you will be issued by the driver with a zero-value ticket when making such a journey, and you must retain this for the duration of your journey. Where applicable, your

concessionary permit or pass, or National Entitlement Card will not be considered valid if the ticket equipment does not recognise it to be so.

4.30. Where a concessionary travel pass or National Entitlement Card permits the pass holder to be accompanied by a companion, one companion shall be carried without payment of a fare or at the appropriate concessionary fare as specified by the pass issuing authority and subject to its conditions for the use of the pass. A companion must get off the bus at the same bus stop as the concessionary pass holder (or any prior bus stop) or must have or purchase a valid ticket for any further travel beyond that bus stop unless a specific exemption applies. Any concessionary pass holder observed soliciting other passengers to offer them a free or reduced price journey shall have their pass details reported to the pass issuing authority.

4.31. Where we have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a concessionary pass or National Entitlement Card is being misused in any way, we reserve the right to withdraw the pass and return it to the issuing local authority, charge a Standard Fare, refuse further travel and report details of the pass holder to the issuing local authority and/or the police, as appropriate.

## **RETURN TICKETS**

4.32. For some journeys, you may buy a return ticket. Return tickets are valid only on the day of purchase, unless clearly advertised otherwise, and may have time restrictions on their validity (e.g. only available at off peak times). It is your responsibility to check the validity conditions of a return ticket. Return tickets should be purchased from the driver of the bus on the outward journey and presented to the driver of the bus on the return journey for validation. Unless otherwise advertised, return tickets are only valid for one single journey in each direction (i.e. not for two journeys in the same direction). Return tickets are not transferable.

4.33. On some routes, return tickets and passes may be valid on the services of another operator and/or other operators' return tickets and passes may be valid for travel on our services. This only applies where advertised locally and subject to any specific local conditions.

## **SAVER, MULTI-JOURNEY AND SEASON TICKETS**

4.34. We offer a wide range of discounted tickets to suit our customers' needs for variable periods of travel.

4.35. These tickets, and any passes, permits and tickets issued by us, other operators or other issuing authorities are accepted by us subject to their conditions of issue and use. Where the use of a ticket requires the presentation of an accompanying photographic identification card, we will not accept the ticket as valid for travel unless you also present that accompanying photographic identification card.

4.36. If misuse or fraud is suspected, a Customer may be asked for proof of identity and his/her ticket or pass may be withdrawn, in which case the Customer may be required to pay the Standard Fare. In addition, we may charge the value of any period of misuse. No refund will be made in respect of any outstanding value in the withdrawn ticket or pass.



## **CHILD AND STUDENT FARES**

4.37. Children under five years old will be carried free-of-charge provided that they do not occupy a seat required by an adult passenger and are accompanied by a fare-paying Customer who is responsible for them. Additional children, or children under five occupying a seat required by an adult, may be charged as if they were aged five or over.

4.38. Fare schemes for children aged five or over and students vary and full details can be found on our website. Individuals who are unable to provide proof of their age and/or student status on request from the driver or a Company official will be required to pay the applicable adult fare. Our Revenue Protection Officers will charge a Standard Fare if passengers are unable to prove age or student status. Any valid documentation bearing a photograph and date of birth of the Customer, including valid proof of age ID cards (available free of charge in many areas), will be accepted in these circumstances.

## **UNPAID FARES: CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS**

4.39. Children aged under 16 and those people who, in the reasonable opinion of the driver, are vulnerable, at risk or in distress, and are unable to pay their fare will be carried at all times. In these circumstances, the driver will issue a single ticket for one journey allowing the individual to travel to their home or the nearest stop thereto.

## **5 WHEELCHAIRS, MOBILITY SCOOTERS AND PUSHCHAIRS**

### **GENERAL**

5.1. Unless otherwise advertised, we will always use low-floor and/or wheelchair accessible vehicles. However, there may be occasions when we cannot do so for technical, operational or other reasons. We reserve the right to substitute without notice a low-floor or wheelchair accessible vehicle with another type of vehicle, at our absolute discretion.

5.2. Provided they meet the size and weight limits set out below and there is sufficient space, we are able to accommodate one wheelchair or mobility scooter. On some of our vehicles, it may be possible to accommodate an additional mobility scooter in a designated buggy/scooter space. Signage on the vehicle will make clear where there is a designated buggy/scooter space. We cannot accommodate additional wheelchairs or mobility scooters on vehicles that do not have the appropriate facilities.

5.3. We cannot carry wheelchairs or mobility scooters which, combined with the weight of the occupant, are heavier than the safe working limit of the wheelchair ramp (in general, the safe working limit is 300kg of total weight although the driver will always have the discretion to evaluate and determine whether the maximum weight limit is likely to be exceeded in the circumstances).

5.4. Our drivers are required (and trained) to provide reasonable assistance to wheelchair users or disabled Customers. Inconsiderate car parking or other factors may prevent the vehicle from being positioned sufficiently close to the kerb to allow a wheelchair user to get on or off safely. In this case the driver will try to identify a safe place to pull in as close to the bus stop as possible.

5.5. It is the Customer's responsibility to ensure that their wheelchair, mobility scooter, pram or pushchair is safely positioned within the designated area and that they adhere to any notices applicable to that area and ensure that it does not obstruct or block any exit or gangway.

5.6. In the unlikely event that your wheelchair or other mobility equipment or assistive device is damaged or lost as a result of our negligence during the course of the journey, we will provide compensation up to the cost of repair or replacement in accordance with the Rights of Passengers in Bus and Coach Transport (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018,

## WHEELCHAIRS

5.7. Wheelchair users have priority over everyone else for the use of the designated wheelchair space. Non-wheelchair users, unlike wheelchair users, will normally have a choice about which part of the bus to sit or stand in. Common decency and respect for wheelchair users should mean that Customers without disabilities make way for them wherever reasonable to do so. Customers are required to offer reasonable cooperation in allowing proper use of the designated wheelchair area. If someone in a wheelchair wishes to get on and there is space elsewhere on the vehicle, Customers will be required by the driver to vacate the space provided it is reasonable for them to do so, including repositioning small prams or mobility scooters where possible and folding any buggies and storing these in the luggage space where available. However, no-one already travelling will be asked to get off the bus in order to accommodate a wheelchair user.

5.8. The dimensions of the designated wheelchair space permit the carriage of a wheelchair no longer than 1200mm and no wider than 700mm (the dimensions of a standard 'reference' wheelchair as specified in the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000). Some of our vehicles have a second flexible space designed to allow use by wheelchairs, pushchairs or scooters. This space is available on a "first come, first served" basis but is not a designated wheelchair space unless specifically signed as such.

## MOBILITY SCOOTERS

5.9. We are committed to the CPT Code for Mobility Scooters and adhere to its requirements throughout our UK Bus business. Mobility scooters are carried subject to the requirements of the CPT Code. In particular, users will not be permitted to bring their mobility scooter onto the vehicle unless they show the driver a valid 'permit to travel' issued under the CPT Code.

5.10. We accept Class 2 mobility scooters (as designated by the Department for Transport) provided the mobility scooter does not exceed 1000mm long and 600mm wide with a maximum turning circle of 1200mm, and the 300kg safe working limit of the bus ramp is not exceeded.

## PUSHCHAIRS AND PRAMS

5.11. When not occupied by a wheelchair or mobility scooter user, the wheelchair space on most vehicles can accommodate up to two small prams or normal sized unfolded pushchairs. Some vehicles also have additional pushchair capacity in a dedicated 'buggy area'. The driver will be able to tell you where a pushchair or pram can be safely accommodated. You should follow their instructions.

5.12. Empty pushchairs or pushchairs carrying animals or luggage must be folded and accommodated in appropriate luggage areas where safe to do so and with consideration for other Customers and their belongings. We will not accept liability for loss of or damage to pushchairs and prams.

## **6 CONDUCT OF CUSTOMERS**

6.1. When travelling on our vehicles, you are subject to these Conditions. Failure to comply with the Conditions (or the general law) may result in us refusing to permit you to travel or continue to travel. In particular, you must not:

(a) behave in a manner which may reasonably be expected to cause any person to be alarmed, upset, offended or annoyed, or which may reasonably be expected to cause a nuisance or inconvenience to any Customer, driver or company official (including, without limitation, the use of obscene or offensive language or behaving in a manner that is abusive or threatening).

(b) speak to the driver whilst the bus is in motion, stand forward of the cab area, obstruct the driver's vision or otherwise cause the driver to be distracted while driving, except in an emergency or for reasons of safety;

(c) obstruct any emergency or other exits,

(d) stand on the upper deck or any step leading to the upper deck of any double deck vehicle while it is in motion (except for the purposes of getting on or off the vehicle);

(e) use any door for a purpose other than as indicated by a notice, unless directed to by the driver or a Company official;

(f) throw or trail any article from the vehicle;

(g) remain on the vehicle when directed to leave by the driver, a Revenue Protection Officer or a Company official;

(h) smoke at any time in any part of the vehicle or carry any lit pipe, cigar, cigarette (including 'electronic cigarettes'), match or lighter on the vehicle (we are aware of prescribed medication that is ingested using devices that resemble e-cigarettes, use of these will be permitted only with a valid letter from the customer's GP) ;

(i) play or operate any musical equipment or instruments (including radios, mobile phones, MP3 devices etc) on vehicles at a volume that is likely to cause annoyance to other Customers;

(j) wear soiled clothing or behave in a manner which might stain or damage the vehicle fittings or other Customers' clothing;

(k) deliberately interfere with any equipment fitted to the vehicle; or

(l) carry any bulky or cumbersome article, or any article or substance which is likely to cause annoyance or risk of injury to any person on the vehicle, or risk of damage to the vehicle or to the property or clothing of any person on the vehicle.

6.2. If you are in breach of any of the above Conditions you will be required to give your name and address to a Company official (including the driver or a Revenue Protection Officer) and may be removed from the vehicle by a Company official (including the driver or a Revenue Protection Officer), a police officer or a community support officer. You will be refused further travel without refund.

6.3. In addition, you must:

(a) comply with all reasonable instructions given by the driver or Revenue Protection Officer (and any other member of the Company);

(b) comply with all notices and legal signage displayed on the vehicle (including, without limitation, in relation to limits on numbers of permitted standing and total passengers and signage imposing stricter conditions than those specified in condition 6.1 above, such as a total prohibition of food consumption where specified);

(c) have due regard at all times for the needs of our elderly, young, or disabled Customers and Customers with reduced mobility and, in particular, vacate seats and spaces designed for the elderly, disabled and Customers with reduced mobility when requested; and

(d) take reasonable care to ensure that persons, animals or property within your control do not cause loss, injury or damage to property or persons.

And you must not:

(e) obstruct the vehicle entrance next to the driver, gangways, or any part of the vehicle where standing is not allowed (signs are in place to indicate standing capacity and restrictions) or other locations on the bus in any way that would inhibit safety;

(f) lean out of the vehicle;

(g) deliberately damage or deface any part of the vehicle;

(h) take part in any form of criminal activity while on the vehicle;

(i) consume any type of alcohol while on the vehicle;

(j) carry or consume any items of food or drink which in the opinion of the driver may make other Customers' journeys unpleasant or otherwise cause offence, or which is likely to cause a spillage of

any food or drink inside the vehicle (local prohibitions on consumption of hot food or drinks may apply and will be clearly signed on vehicles);

(k) leave rubbish or discarded items on the vehicle;

(l) wear roller skates, roller blades or unsuitable footwear, or use scooters, electric scooters or skateboards on the vehicle;

(m) carry any soiled items which might stain or damage the vehicle fittings or other Customers' clothing;

(n) allow small children to be uncontrolled at any point when using our vehicles;

(o) sell, or offer for sale, any item, or collect for charity without our prior written consent;

(p) distribute/display printed or similar matter of any description or distribute any article for the purpose of advertising, or otherwise approach other Customers for any commercial or similar purpose without our prior written consent;

(q) canvass or survey any Customers without our prior written consent.

6.4 Passengers must not partake in any activity which is in any way unsafe or endangers the safety of others. Passengers must not engage in any form of anti-social or disruptive behaviour. Behaviours defined as antisocial include:

- (a) acting in an aggressive, offensive or intimidating manner
- (b) using offensive language
- (c) shouting
- (d) harassing others in any way
- (e) putting feet on the seats or allowing pets on the seats
- (f) continually moving around the vehicle to the annoyance of other passengers

This list is not exhaustive and the driver retains discretion as to what behaviour is ultimately considered to be anti-social.

6.5. If you are in breach of any of these further Conditions (or the general law) you will be asked to give your name and address to a Company official (including the driver or a Revenue Protection Officer) and may be asked to leave the vehicle or removed from our premises by a Company official (including the driver or a Revenue Protection Officer), or removed from vehicle by a police officer or a community support officer. You will be refused further travel without refund.

6.6. Intending passengers who in the opinion of the driver appear likely to behave in an inappropriate manner or to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or solvents may not be permitted to travel.

6.7. Abuse of our staff will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to refuse travel or deny service to anyone physically or verbally insulting, intimidating or abusing any First Bus employee.

6.8. We also reserve the right to take any other measures we consider necessary to protect the safety and comfort of our Customers and staff including temporarily or permanently banning you from travelling with us following any incident of misconduct, and/or prosecuting you.

6.9. Whilst we will do everything that we reasonably can to control the conduct of other Customers on our buses, we cannot be held responsible for their conduct.

## **7 LUGGAGE**

7.1. Where permitted, luggage is carried free of charge at the driver's discretion. In the interests of safety and for the comfort of all our Customers, we reserve the right to refuse or restrict the size, amount and type of luggage or other belongings that you can bring on our buses. In particular, the driver may refuse to accept any item being brought onto the bus or coach and/or may refuse travel to any passenger if he/she believes that:

**(a)** there is insufficient space available for carriage of your luggage and/or you are carrying excessive amounts of luggage (to be determined at the driver's discretion);

**(b)** you are carrying items which may cause inconvenience, or present a danger, risk of injury or discomfort to other passengers, or cause damage to their property or to the vehicle; or

**(c)** you are carrying items which may block any designated wheelchair or pushchair space, gangway or exit.

7.2. Subject to our statutory obligations (including, without limitation, pursuant to the Rights of Passengers in Bus and Coach Transport (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018), we cannot be held liable for any inconvenience or loss caused to a Customer if they are refused travel under these circumstances or if their luggage or belongings are damaged or lost whilst on the bus.

7.3. On services operated by coaches, larger bags and suitcases may be carried in the rear or underfloor lockers as necessary and as space permits. Any such baggage should be clearly labelled.

7.3.1 On services operated by coaches, luggage is to be loaded into and unloaded from the external luggage lockers by the customer and only when under the supervision of the driver or other Company official. Customers are to follow all instructions from the driver or other Company official.

7.3.2 Valuable or fragile items or those required during the journey (including travel documents, passports and bank cards) should be retained by the Customer and brought on board the vehicle as hand luggage.

7.3.3 Customers are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance for journeys where luggage is stored in vehicle external lockers.

7.4. You remain responsible at all times for the safe carriage, stability and handling of any items you bring on board. Fragile items such as electronic goods, portable televisions, computers, radios etc will only be carried if they are of reasonable size and securely packed. Luggage is carried at your risk and we accept no liability for any loss or damage to you or any third party, however caused.

7.5. We will not carry explosive or combustible material (including unsealed heavy batteries and petrol), accumulators, explosives, ammunition, weapons, paint in either unsealed containers or containers exceeding 3 litres, dangerous, illegal, offensive or otherwise hazardous items under any circumstances. The above list is not exhaustive and the carriage of items is at the sole discretion of the driver.

7.6. We will permit the carriage of a single portable oxygen cylinder or unit for personal medical reasons.

7.7. Where we accept the carriage of oxygen cylinders, paint, chemicals or any other liquids or substances on our vehicles, you must ensure that such substances are in proper containers which are sealed and are kept upright and secure throughout the journey. You will be liable for any damage caused to the vehicle or other Customer's belongings due to spillage or leakage of any liquid or substance carried.

7.8. Folding bicycles (including folding electric bicycles) and non-motorised folding scooters are permitted on board our buses, provided that they are stowed safely and that they are not ridden on board and do not block the aisles or access to seats. Electric scooters are not permitted to be brought on board (but see paragraphs 5.9-5.10 above for mobility scooters). While we will make every effort to carry folding bicycles, there are instances when this may not be possible, including:

**(a)** if there is insufficient space on the bus; or

**(b)** if your folding bicycle is likely to make the inside of the bus or its seats dirty, and/or could cause discomfort to other Customers.

7.9. Due to space and safety considerations, non-folding bicycles cannot be carried inside our buses.

7.10 Walking frames and other mobility assistance devices (other than wheelchairs and mobility scooters) will be carried provided there is space to do so (at the driver's discretion). The Customer may elect to stand and use the device provided that they can do so safely and without occupying the wheelchair space if it is required by a wheelchair user; alternatively the device may be carried in the vehicle's luggage storage area.

## **8 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

8.1. We will carry Assistance Dogs (or other legitimate assistance animals) of any size free of charge at any time on our vehicles, both when accompanying a registered disabled person and when being trained by a trainer bearing the appropriate valid identification.

8.2. Except in the case of a registered disabled person, or trainer, accompanied by an Assistance Dog or other assistance animal, only one dog or small animal may be carried per Customer (and always at the driver's discretion in respect of the safety and comfort of other passengers).

8.3. All dogs must be kept on leads at all times and dogs must be muzzled where they are likely to be dangerous or where this is legally required in accordance with the Dangerous Dogs Act or other equivalent legislation. Small animals must be caged, boxed or kept on a lead. Any animal carried must remain under control and must not be allowed to travel on the seats.

8.4. Customers are responsible for the behaviour of their animals at all times, and for any damage or injury they may cause to any person, or the property of any person (including Company property), on the vehicle. In cases where animals cause a nuisance or inconvenience to other Customers, Customers may be asked to leave the vehicle. A charge will be made for cleaning the vehicle if any animal should soil the vehicle and for repairs should any damage be caused. We cannot be held liable for any inconvenience or loss caused to a Customer if they are refused travel or asked to leave under these circumstances.

## **9 CCTV**

9.1. We fit our vehicles and other property with CCTV. In addition, our Revenue Protection Officers are equipped with body worn cameras to provide added security, monitor the conduct of customers, monitor service quality, to assist us in the process of deterring smoking, vaping, vandalism, fraud, theft, anti-social behaviour and attacks on our employees and other individuals, and in support of relevant criminal and civil legal proceedings and complaint investigation. All CCTV equipment (including body worn cameras) and its operation complies with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 (including the ICO's CCTV Code of Practice) and any subsequent amendments ("Data Protection Legislation").

9.2. Images of you may be provided to the police, DVSA, the Traffic Commissioner or any other enforcement agency at their reasonable request, whether to be used as evidence in prosecuting criminal activity or in assisting the identification of individuals or otherwise.

## **10 SECURITY**

10.1. Customers must advise the driver immediately if any suspicious article or package is seen on or near a vehicle, if any Customer is observed acting suspiciously or if any person is seen to tamper with the vehicle.

## **11 LOST PROPERTY**



11.1. If you find property left on a vehicle by another Customer, please hand the item(s) to the driver as soon as it is safe to do so. The driver will on request supply you with his or her staff number.

11.2. If you have lost your property on one of our vehicles or at our premises, you should contact the Customer Services Centre or local Lost Property team. Contact details can be found on our website (<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/help-support/top-help-topics/lost-property/>).

11.3. All lost property found or handed in by drivers or Company officials or by a third party is recorded, labelled and stored at the local lost property office. If the lost property is contained in a package, bag or other container, we may open it and examine it in order to trace the owner or identify the nature and value of the lost property.

11.4. Any lost property found on our vehicles, providing the item is not perishable will be kept for 1 month. All unclaimed property is donated to charity at the end of the calendar month following the one in which it was handed in. Perishable items, including but not limited to foodstuffs, and soiled items will be held for a maximum of 48 hours and if deemed necessary will be disposed of immediately. In the case of debit and credit cards, any payment cards that are handed in are securely destroyed on receipt. If you have lost your payment card, please contact your bank immediately.

11.5. When claiming lost property, you must supply a full description of the item, including its contents if applicable, and give details of where and when lost, in order to reasonably satisfy us that you are the rightful owner of the property.

11.6. Once lost property has been identified you will be given details of how and where to collect the item. Under normal circumstances, you will need to collect the lost property from the office or depot at which the lost property is being stored during office hours. On collection you will be asked to fill out your name and address and supply proof of identity. You will need to pay the cost of postage and packaging in advance if we agree to post the property back to you. We reserve the right to charge a small fee for administration of the lost property service.

## **12 COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

12.1. Our UK Bus operating companies are supported by a dedicated Customer Services Centre responsible for handling suggestions and complaints efficiently and effectively. You can find contact details by going to our website at (<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/help-and-support/>). This will provide you with telephone contact details, as well as the facility to contact us online, through social media, live chat or by completing a 'Contact Us' form. You can also tell us about your journey by visiting (<http://www.tellfirstbus.com>).

12.2. Information on how to contact your local operator is also available on all buses, in our timetables and, where possible, in information leaflets.

12.3. Where a response is required, complaints will be investigated and dealt with, provided, where relevant, they are received within a reasonable period following the date on which the journey was made or incident occurred. We will always aim to acknowledge your correspondence

within 14 days of receipt by us, even if this is initially to explain what investigation needs to take place and how long this will take, and we will keep you up to date on the progress.

12.4 Our Customer Contact Centre is unable to deal with questions regarding Standard Fares. If you believe that a Standard Fare charge notice has been unfairly issued then you should appeal using the appeals webform detailed on your notice. Your case will be investigated, and the appeal judged against these Conditions of Travel. An outcome email or letter will be sent to you within 7 days.

12.5. When comments or complaints are about matters outside our control, we reserve the right to forward them to the relevant organisation and explain that we have done this.

12.6. If you have any questions about enforcement of your rights under the Rights of Passengers in Bus and Coach Transport (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018, you should contact Bus Users UK ([www.bususers.org](http://www.bususers.org)).

12.7. If you are not satisfied with our final response to your complaint, and in accordance with your rights to Alternative Dispute Resolution under the Consumer Rights Act, you can write to the relevant bus appeals body which is Bus Users UK (incorporating Bus Users Scotland) at ([www.bususers.org](http://www.bususers.org)).

We will always provide you with their contact details on request.

## **13 DATA PROTECTION**

13.1. If we collect or otherwise process your personal data, we will always do so in accordance with the Data Protection Legislation.

13.2. The Data Protection Legislation creates a number of rights, including allowing you to request a copy of the data we hold on you. For more information on your rights and how to use them, please go to the First Bus Privacy Policy ([https:// www.firstbus.co.uk/privacy-policy](https://www.firstbus.co.uk/privacy-policy)). If you would like to exercise any of your rights relating to personal data, including a request for us to provide you with a copy of your data, please contact the Data Protection Officer, First Bus, 8th Floor, The Point, 37 North Wharf Road, London W2 1AF, or via the other contact methods set out in the Privacy Policy.

## **14 LEGAL NOTICE**

14.1. Save as otherwise stated herein, these Conditions constitute the entire agreement between the Company and its Customers. None of our employees is entitled to alter or vary any of the provisions of these Conditions.

14.2. The contract between the Company and any Customer is limited to travel upon the Company's own services and liability (if any) will be limited accordingly. The Company will not be liable for any loss, consequential loss, damage, or inconvenience arising from the communication of information in good faith by any of the Company's employees.

14.3. The restrictions of liability contained in these Conditions are considered by the Company to be reasonable in all circumstances. However, should any provision of these Conditions be deemed by a court of law or other competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable this shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions.

14.4. Without prejudice to all rights and claims otherwise available to the Company, in the event that Customers breach any of the Conditions, or any other condition implied or duties owed as a matter of law (howsoever such conditions or duties arise) the Company has the right to recover compensation for all loss, injury and damage suffered by the Company as a result of such breach, including but not limited to costs incurred in repairing or replacing damaged property and loss of revenue.

14.5. The governing law for these Conditions shall be the laws of England and Wales and the Courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction except where your journey commences and terminates wholly within Scotland in which case the laws of Scotland shall apply and the Courts of Scotland shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

## 15 SPECIAL MEANINGS

Expression	Meaning
Assistance Dog	A dog which has been specifically trained to assist a person with a disability and which has been certified by one of the charitable organisations registered as members of Assistance Dogs (UK), or is in training for such certification and accompanied by a trainer bearing the appropriate valid identification. Assistance Animal shall be construed accordingly.
Company Official	An individual employed by or on behalf of the Company such as a manager or supervisor (but not a Driver or Revenue Protection Officer).
Conditions	These Conditions of Travel.
Customer	An individual using a bus service provided by the Company.
CPT Code	The Confederation of Passenger Transport code for the use and acceptance of mobility scooters on low floor buses, available at <a href="https://www.bususers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/cpt_mobility_scooter_leaflet.pdf">https://www.bususers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/cpt_mobility_scooter_leaflet.pdf</a> ).
Driver	A bus driver employed by or on behalf of the Company.
Standard Fare	A fare that can be charged in circumstances set out in these Conditions, in particular where passengers are unable to produce a valid ticket or valid pass for the journey being taken.
Passenger Charter	A local agreement between the Local Transport Authority and bus operators that includes fixed compensation under certain prescribed circumstances when bus services are late or fail to run.
Revenue Protection Officer	a member of First Bus staff in uniform empowered to check the validity of customers' tickets or other entitlement to travel, and to issue Standard Fares.
Tap-on	Use of a contactless bank card or the equivalent card stored on a mobile device presented to the on-board ticketing equipment at the point of boarding a service. This may also be accompanied by a similar "tap off" action on alighting the service. A total daily or weekly travel cost will be calculated after travel. Details are available on local First Bus websites.