

Subject Bus Service 69 - Portobello - Duddingston route - Change of Operator

From Alan Dean

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### Bus Service 69 (Portobello – Duddingston) – Operator Changes

This is a note to keep you informed of an operator change regarding the Service 69 that connects Portobello with Duddingston. This relatively short route is currently operated by Lothian Buses and is the only route across the company that requires a small vehicle due to the area that it serves which contains a number of tight corners, traffic calming measures, traffic bollards and narrow streets.

Due to the increasing maintenance costs , Lothian Buses are unable to justify reinvesting in this part of their fleet and have taken the decision to sell these vehicles.

In order to continue to serve the area, they have entered into a partnership arrangement with the operator Prentice of Haddington who will be taking over the route from 29 October 2018. From this date, a Prentice vehicle and driver will operate the route though Lothian will continue to promote the service as part of the Lothian Buses network and Lothian Buses tickets/Ridacards/National Entitlement Card will continue to be valid. The timetable will remain almost unchanged apart from a required 30 minute break at 12.25 that Lothian have identified as one that can be dropped out of the current timetable.

Despite this, we are aware that users of the service will notice the change and may be concerned, however we want to reassure that the new operator will be monitoring the service closely in order to identify future route development opportunities.

We hope by informing yourselves and local councillors of the new provider you can take the opportunity to raise awareness of the change and help promote the service.

Regards  
Alan

Alan Dean: Transport Officer: Public Transport and Infrastructure