

Anita Cacchioli F.Inst.SRM.Hons
MCMI MInstD Director of
Environment, Culture and Sport

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7AE

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Russell Gard
Connexionz UK Ltd
Suite 4F Worth Corner
Turners Hill Road
Pound Hill
Crawley RH10 7SL
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Our Ref: *

Your Ref: *

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Your contact is: Network Manager

Dear Russell

Further to our discussions at the Bus Futures Liaison Meeting on 3 September 2009, regarding the accuracy of the RTPI system in Reading, I undertook to provide a bit more information on the Department for Transport review we mentioned. This took place in 2007 and, as I indicated at the meeting, the exercise was linked to the Department's proposals for new National Indicators to replace the old BVPI scheme for local authority reporting. In particular the Department wanted to establish the technical feasibility of using RTPI systems data for the future submission of bus punctuality indicators (where such data is available to a local authority, as in Reading).

I have since spoken to our public transport co-ordination term consultants, Transept, and they have confirmed that the Council was asked to participate in these trials by the Statistics Division at DfT. It is understood that a number of authorities were approached, being broadly representative of users of different RTPI systems and demonstrating a wide variety of operational environments.

The results of the trials were made available to participating authorities (I am not able to share these with you) but it was noted in the accompanying commentary that the bus arrivals data supplied by RBC was the closest match nationally for the actual arrivals observed by the DfT's survey teams.

On the basis of this trial the Department updated the technical guidance for NI 178 (Buses arriving on time). RBC applied for, and was granted, permission to use our local RTPI data, from the Connexionz servers, to submit the returns for this indicator with effect from April 2008. The additional reports you developed for us at that time have made this a straightforward task.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Network Manager