



ZF Services UK offers the key to bus fleet maintenance programmes

- **ZF Services UK has provided its Health Check programme to Dublin Bus.**
- **The service is designed to review an organisation's existing maintenance programme and make recommendations.**
- **Working with ZF Services UK has led to cost savings and a reduction in downtime for Dublin Bus.**

A leading Ireland-based bus operator has enhanced its fleet repair and maintenance procedure, reducing vehicle downtime and optimising fuel efficiency, through a longstanding partnership with ZF Services UK's technical support team.

With eight depots across Dublin, Dublin Bus is the city's leading bus operator, transporting 122 million people per year. For 18 years, ZF Services UK's technical support team has worked with Dublin Bus to offer its dedicated gearbox inspection 'Health Check' programme, which audits an organisation's fleet maintenance procedure and examines individual vehicles within each depot. Designed to review existing maintenance processes, the service aims to identify any potential issues across a quota sample of the fleet, and provide the team with suggestions on how to repair the issue and avoid the problem in the future.

The Health Check programme for Dublin Bus has inevitably evolved over the years in line with changing technology. The more powerful TCUs (Transmission Control Units) recently being used are not only able to record and store traditional information on potential faults within the transmission gearboxes and operating temperature, but also record the behaviour of the adaptive system. This can indicate wear patterns within the clutch, as well as history about the vehicle's SORT cycles, which includes average road speed; time spent in each gear; number of stops per kilometre and time spent stationary with the engine running.



The annual visits to Dublin Bus' depot have seen ZF Services UK's technical support team inspect a segment of the organisation's fleet (which consists of 950 vehicles in total) to obtain a full understanding of their maintenance and repair procedure. A report of the findings is then prepared and discussed with Dublin Bus' technical team.

Over the years, the results from the annual checks have helped reduce gearbox faults across the fleet, by promoting robust maintenance procedures in-house. It has also identified areas within the fleet where fuel savings can be made. For example, choosing a more suitable drive programme for the route being covered – this is particularly beneficial for inner city stop/start driving. The service has ultimately led to cost savings and a reduction in downtime, and more importantly, enabled Dublin Bus to meet their route timetables and contractual obligations more effectively.

Tim Jordan, CV Technical Support Manager at ZF Services UK, explained: "Over the years we have developed an excellent relationship with Dublin Bus and our annual Health Check service has formed a valuable part of the organisation's repair and maintenance programme. By undertaking regular reviews of its in-house maintenance, we have been able to identify potential issues, such as increases in operating temperature in a particular vehicle's cooling system or any slip within the gearbox clutches that may have been recorded on the error memory. We then can provide recommendations to eliminate the risk of breakdown or failure in the future.

"It's not just about improving maintenance procedures either, the information contained within the latest TCUs has provided us with a far greater understanding of specific driving styles and as a result we've been able to make suggestions on using different drive programs for specific routes which has led to improvements in fuel efficiency."



For more information about ZF Services UK's Bus and Coach Health Check programme, please visit www.zf.com/uk/busandcoach.

Caption:

Caption Text.

Photo: ZF/ZF Services

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ZF is a global leader in driveline and chassis technology as well as active and passive safety technology. The company acquired TRW Automotive on May 15, 2015, which was then integrated within the organizational structure as the Active & Passive Safety Technology Division. The combined company reported sales of €29.2 billion in 2015 and now has a global workforce of around 135.000 with approximately 230 locations in some 40 countries. ZF annually invests approximately five percent of its sales in Research & Development (€1.4 billion in 2015) ensuring continued success through the design and engineering of innovative technologies. ZF is one of the largest automotive suppliers worldwide.

ZF Services and TRW Aftermarket consistently continue ZF's systems competence in the aftermarket. With integrated solutions and the entire product portfolio, the aftermarket organizations guarantee the performance and efficiency of vehicles throughout their life cycle. Its combination of established product brands, digital innovations, customized products and services, and a worldwide service network has made ZF a sought-after partner and number two in the global aftermarket.

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