

Public Transport Regulations Bill 2009:

ibus is considering a legal challenge to the proposed Public Transport Regulations Bill 2009 which will shortly come before Seanad Eireann. This Bill guarantees the State transport companies, Bus Eireann and Dublin Bus, continued protection against competition and secures their existing routes, whilst on the other hand, it is writing into law that all private routes are to be put out to tender as they become due for renewal. This Bill will also “ring fence” so called Public Service Obligation contracts and pass these on to the State companies without any tendering process

FOTO and I objected to the contents and direction this Bill was taking 3/4 years ago, but, to no avail.

I presume the other representative bodies did likewise.

This total ignoring of the rights of private bus and coach operators is precisely why the concept of **ibus** was launched in September of 2007. Representation has done nothing to stop the State in its continued protection of its business interests, namely Bus Eireann and Dublin Bus. Representation has not adequately protected your interests over the last 30 years and at best has merely secured minimal benefits in lieu of basic rights. It is fair to say that this in part is due to the lack of support from the majority of Irish Bus and Coach operators.

ibus plc. was set up to protect only its shareholders. These shareholders no longer wished to pay for those who sit on the sidelines and expect to benefit from the work and investment of others. It was set up to be properly funded so as to challenge, legally if must be, the influence of Government and the State companies in Irish passenger transport in precisely the way this new Transport Regulations Bill proposes.

ibus has continued to protect the identities of its subscribers and we are now close to the final make up of **ibus plc.** We have lost quite some time since the launch of **ibus** due to the very difficult financial situation many of our potential subscribers are in. I appreciate that many of you are not much better off now, but, we must finalise our plans and we must act with urgency if we are to succeed at all in protecting the shareholder interests. Opportunities have already passed us by and the fear is that we will miss out and be too late for even more important opportunities as Bus Eireann and Dublin Bus secure ever more rights in the Irish transport sector.

For instance, what will you do?

What can you do to protect your interests when the unions in the two State companies close down your schools and you are embroiled in a dispute you do not wish to be involved in?

Are you a member of a large union that will pay your hire purchase, insurance finance company, fuel company bill from last month or maybe, your tax!

What can **ibus do?**

ibus continues to work on a number of transport solutions and projects as it awaits the numbers and the financial backing of Bus and Coach operators, for example:

School Transport Contract:

- **ibus plc.** will challenge, legally if must be, the Department of Education to have the School Transport contract put out to tender in its entirety. The present value for money review (VFMR) does not address this fundamental issue and refuses to accept that savings can be made in the delivery of this service. We have estimated a saving of €300m within our proposals.
- **ibus** will not close our schools!

National Bus Terminus:

- This is proposed to accommodate a new network of services nationwide. This network of services will overcome the “existing routes” protections and bring a positive focus to road passenger transport in Ireland. This initiative has already received publicity and is lodged with the Dept. of Transport.

Large Contract Capability:

- **ibus plc.** offers the capability to individual shareholders to enter into large passenger transport contracts. The recent McCarthy Report, “An Bord Snip”, suggests the sell off of the Expressway Services, and, **ibus plc.** could be in the ideal position to tender for these on behalf of the shareholders.

- It is virtually impossible for small individual bus and coach operators to secure any large contract under a tendering process where conditions are applied such as turnover minima, previous experience and size of fleet.
- **ibus** can with 500 bus and coach owners!

European Dimension:

- Following the recent YES vote by the Irish electorate to endorse the Lisbon Treaty, Ireland remains a committed European member. There will be opportunity for major public passenger initiatives as we strive to reduce our carbon footprint and create more incentives for a more efficient and environmentally friendly mass movement of people. Bus and Coach travel is the most cost efficient and flexible transport solution in this.
- Individual Bus and Coach operators cannot compete with major large, possibly International operators, who will have the capacity to group purchase the “Green” fleet that these contracts will insist on.
- **ibus is forging strategic partnerships across Europe offering alternative travel solutions to over 600 million potential customers.**

Why ibus plc.?

- **ibus plc.** is already a large privately owned company with presently over 150 shareholders, the majority of whom are bus and coach operators. Collectively this company can tender, finance and manage transport projects that are not possible for small individual concerns. **ibus plc.** can provide the expertise of professional transport managers and consultants in the everyday operations of the bus and coach shareholders. When it has achieved the numbers set out in the Information documents it will be the largest single entity in the Irish transport sector.

What do I have to do – Do I have to attend meetings?

- I have long recognised that many bus and coach operators do not like attending meetings!
- In **ibus plc.** you do not need to attend meetings. Your money represents you and the company must act in your best interests equally with all of the other shareholders whether you are there or not.

What now for ibus plc.?

- **We want to increase the number of shareholders to 500!**
- **We must do it before the end of 2009!**
- **We want you to make this decision now!**

ibus is your opportunity to become a shareholder in Irelands future transport system.

How much will it cost me?

Go to www.ibus.ie to download Information Documents

If you wish to subscribe, please complete the enclosed Application Form. We will accept your subscription of €1,500 over the next three months at €500 per month. This offer is only open for the month of November. If you are paying in full we will accept cheques up to the end of December. Please make all cheques payable to **ibus plc.** and send to John Dunne at Embassy Office Park, Kill, Co. Kildare. marked Private and Confidential.

*Remember that your money is secured and will be refunded in full if we do not proceed with the present **ibus** concept.*

NB:

There is no register or any other information available to any agency or other third party person on the identity of subscribers.
A shareholders register will only be available when the subscribers, you, vote to do so.

Regards for now

John Dunne
ibus plc.